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R O M E

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BANKING ACTIVITIES

SAVINGS, LAND SETTLEMENT AND BUILDING LOANS, AGRICULTURAL CREDIT

The post-war period has witnessed a considerable increase in banking business throughout the whole of Italy and the introduction of special departments authorized to deal with specific branches of industry, commerce and agriculture. The following article describes some of the more important achievements to which banks have contributed in Italy, the conditions under which they operate and the legislation which has been approved in relation to them.

Savings and the «popular» banks

Modern life provides for savings in many forms all of which are worthy of attention when any attempt is made to illustrate their importance. Their functions are manifold and it is never too late to point out the advantages which may be derived from their accumulation. Under conditions of modern economy, which depend greatly on credit and banking assistance, *savings* assume a role of paramount importance. Therefore, it is always worthwhile recalling the impulse which savings give to economic progress when they are used for productive and labour investment. In monetary form, these savings are in the hands of the various credit institutes which enjoy the complete confidence of all classes of society. Their correct investment will lead to a gradual increase in the wide range of durable goods and products which are of such importance to modern life and, as such, every effort is made to demonstrate their value to the individual.

Savings accumulated by the poor or rich have an equally important role. Generally speaking, moneys which are deposited with a bank or any other qualified institute represent a considerable savings on sums which might otherwise be spent uselessly and they also contribute towards monetary stability through placing a limit on consumer goods.

A correct savings policy requires an effort which not only aims at favouring economic and social stability but also encourages the

safeguarding of many other requisites. A genuine and ambitious savings campaign necessarily means adequate defence of purchase power, a balanced fiscal policy, conditions of encouragement and protection against those who may use such savings without furnishing full moral and technical guarantees. Finally, if a savings policy is to be successful, care must be taken to explain the connection between the present and the future and the benefits which will result.

It is interesting to examine the reasons for the post-war increase in savings and the valuable contribution made by the *Banche Popolari* (Popular Banks) which, from their very foundation, have prosecuted a consistent policy in favour of savings.

Total savings deposited in these « Popular Banks » (excluding mailing accounts):

1938 - Lire 3,726,000,000	1955 - Lire 344,104,000,000
1950 - Lire 145,215,000,000	1958 - Lire 515,638,000,000 (May).

Average increase for whole savings sector - 102 times.

Average increase by « Banche Popolari » - 138 times.

Development by « Banche Popolari » in southern provinces - 151 times.

The first « popular bank » was founded at Eilemburg, in Germany, at the beginning of 1850, by Hermann Schulze. A similar bank was founded at Lodi, in Italy, in 1864, following an intensive campaign by Luigi Luzzatti who encouraged the opening of other institutes of this kind. At the present time, there are about 200 in this country, distributed throughout the regions as follows: Piedmont - 6 (this includes the largest « popular bank » in the world, existing at Novara), Lombardy - 27 (where the first bank was founded in 1864), Trentino-Alto-Adige - 3, Veneto - 20, Friuli-Venezia Giulia - 11, Liguria - 1, Emilia-Romagna - 18, Tuscany - 12, Umbria - 3, Marches - 15, Lazio - 12, Abruzzi - 4, Molise - 1, Campania - 14, Apulia - 20, Basilicata - 5, Calabria - 14, Sicily - 15, Sardinia - 1. All of them carry out transactions of great importance, both as regards savings and investments. Their total deposits exceed 900 milliard lire.

Founded to combat usury and to meet the needs of small and medium industry, these banks voted in favour of an *Istituto Centrale delle Banche Popolari* (Central Institute of Popular Banks) in 1939, considering this as an organ which would be capable of coordinating and suggesting financial policy to be followed. It is authorized to issue its own drafts, and plays an important role among the banking category it represents and in the economic life of the nation. In 1947, the *Centrobanca* was founded, this being a bank for the issuing of medium term credit to medium and small industry, medium and small commercial undertakings, the hotel industry and land improvement projects.

For similar reasons, Italian «popular banks» approved the founding of the *Cassa per il Credito alle Imprese Artigiane* (Credit Fund for Artisan Trades – also known as *Artigiancassa*) in 1947, making contributions towards its initial capital.

General policy is the responsibility of the original *Associazione Nazionale tra le Banche Popolari* (National Association of Popular Banks) founded by Luigi Lazzatti in 1876. This is one of the oldest foundations of its kind and it was largely responsible for the creation of the *Confederazione Internazionale delle Banche Popolari* (World Federation of Popular Banks) which was founded in the post-war period in Paris. This federation embraces the associations of eleven nations. Thanks to the enthusiastic propaganda of many supporters of «popular banks», business houses of this kind have also been founded in the United States, Canada, Austria, Belgium, Germany, France, Luxembourg, Holland, Switzerland, Columbia and Turkey.

Banks of this kind are juridically considered as cooperatives and limited companies. Because of their particular methods and the assistance they offer to medium and small enterprise, they are the object of special legislation (1948) and have gradually assumed a major role in the economic life of Italy, collaborating with general banking houses and maintaining close contact with the *Cassa di Risparmio* (Savings Funds).

The rapid development of certain of these popular banks, both in Italy and elsewhere, has not altered their structure nor modified the basic credit policy which they practice. The fact that their importance has increased is a clear sign of their value and their necessity to modern economic life.

For economic and social reasons and to satisfy the demands of local economy, it has been suggested that these banks should create a branch system which will enable redistribution of savings in those localities in which they have been accumulated. This has led to the opening of 25 new banks, mostly the work of a few enthusiasts anxious to retain the principle of the cooperative system and its value in the field of credit and wishful of furthering the expansion of individual cities and provinces, particularly those of the south.

Defined as «private companies with public and social objectives», the banks have always considered, among their many aims, the principle of offering assistance to special agencies concerned with developing the zones in which they operate. Collaborating closely with the State, they have also performed valuable work as holders of bonds, selling these to private persons.

Modern banks have considerably extended their fields of operation. The normal operations of earlier times have been widened to include

« special credit facilities » and other services required by modern economic operators. The « popular banks » are also ready to face such new responsibilities, adapting themselves to modern business operations and interesting themselves particularly in that form of credit known as « *loans for productivity* » which has, so far, produced such satisfying and constructive results.

Building and Land Credit

Earlier considerations of this particular sector brought to light the fact that, in 1947, operations effected by banks in this sector were below the level registered during the pre-war period. Such a situation was undoubtedly due to increases in costs and a restricted volume of operations. Following this date, the urgent need for medium and long term credit resulted in rapid growth throughout the whole of the territory. This increased the importance of the special credit institutes which now began a more active savings policy and a farseeing investments campaign in those sectors of immediate interest to them.

Table 1 – MORTGAGES ISSUED BETWEEN 1951 AND 1958. OVERALL DATA
(in milliard lire)

Y E A R	Mortgages granted				Situation at year end				
	Total	Guarantee		Value of Mortgaged Property	Total	Guarantee		Increase over prece- ding year	Coef- ficient 1938=1
		Rural	Urban			Rural	Urban		
1951.....	24.4	2.0	22.4	62.6	74.3	10.5	63.8	+ 19.7	12.7
1952.....	30.8	1.9	28.9	83.9	99.0	11.6	87.4	+ 24.7	16.9
1953.....	52.1	4.3	47.8	137.6	141.0	14.3	126.7	+ 42.0	24.1
1954.....	73.2	7.7	65.5	184.8	198.0	18.2	179.8	+ 57.0	33.9
1955.....	79.5	8.5	71.0	213.1	258.5	23.1	235.4	+ 60.5	44.2
1956.....	80.1	5.8	74.3	215.2	319.7	27.6	292.1	+ 61.3	54.7
1957.....	92.1	5.2	86.9	238.2	389.8	31.2	358.6	+ 70.1	66.7
1958.....	47.8	2.7	45.1	120.9	424.4	32.9	391.5	+ 34.6	72.6

Following the upsurge registered between 1947 and 1952, those banks, specializing in loans to land improvement projects and building, widened their activities to the extent that operations at June 30, 1958 exceeded 424 milliard lire (against 99 milliard lire registered at the end of 1952). The total mortgages and loans issued during the six year period amount to 407 milliard lire, of which 33 milliard refer to mortgages against rural properties and 374 milliard to mortgages against urban properties.

Of late, credit institutes have shown a tendency to shorten periods for new mortgages. This has benefitted persons asking for advances who are now able to benefit from more consistent loans, although repay-

ment terms are higher. On the other hand, this is compensated by lower interest rates practised by certain credit banks (Table 1 and 2).

Compared to 1938, total mortgages at June 30, 1958, had reached a volume 72 times that of the former year. There was also an average annual increase of 20 milliard lire between 1948 and 1951, and over 53 milliard lire between 1952 and 1957. The majority of loans were

Table 2 – MORTGAGES ISSUED PER REGION
(milliard lire)

R E G I O N	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	
							Total	%
Piedmont	5,802	7,841	11,370	15,741	21,855	29,760	38,636	9.9
Valle d'Aosta	129	193	211	271	425	516	572	0.2
Lombardy	13,485	17,892	27,049	40,261	58,061	73,022	91,073	23.4
Trentino-Alto Adige	1,239	2,111	3,086	3,971	5,090	5,716	6,663	1.7
Veneto	5,802	7,218	9,722	12,184	16,657	21,689	25,962	6.7
Friuli-Venezia Giulia	460	727	1,029	395	2,048	2,601	3,630	0.9
Trieste	—	—	—	390	646	684	792	0.2
Liguria	6,023	7,265	8,490	11,192	12,939	15,576	18,014	4.6
Emilia-Romagna	4,825	5,654	7,560	9,736	13,161	16,770	20,588	5.3
Tuscany	3,037	3,872	5,013	6,771	8,094	9,823	11,863	3.0
Umbria	405	495	784	1,322	1,536	1,821	2,243	0.6
Marches	410	541	812	1,257	1,731	2,241	2,554	0.7
Lazio	22,745	31,688	45,989	62,736	76,265	91,156	109,563	28.1
Abruzzi and Molise	420	547	690	1,072	1,404	1,628	2,048	0.5
Campania	5,408	7,564	11,971	18,307	22,485	26,959	33,223	8.5
Apulia	766	905	1,204	2,255	2,941	3,609	4,281	1.1
Basilicata	34	32	54	109	199	256	284	0.1
Calabria	99	147	358	680	976	1,306	1,660	0.4
Sicily	2,713	3,704	4,934	7,852	11,248	13,657	14,816	3.8
Sardinia	168	269	345	482	680	920	1,313	0.3
Other zones	375	378	366	17	14	13	13	..
Total...	74,345	99,043	141,037	198,001	258,455	319,723	389,790	100 -

issued against guarantees forthcoming from urban property which represent 86 % of the total in 1951 and 92 % in June, 1958. Much of the increase is due to State intervention, particularly in building, following the Law of August 10, 1950, No. 715.

Agricultural Credit

In previous editions, « Italian Affairs » has set out and explained much of the chief legislation affecting agricultural credit, its development and its twofold objective of financing and bringing improvement to general farming (1).

(1) See: *The Growth of Agrarian Credit in Italy* – « Italian Affairs », Vol. IV, N° 6, pp. 1029-1032.

It should be remembered that such legislation was introduced for the purpose of encouraging the farmer and providing the necessary capital for improvements of farms and developing fallow land. Assistance has mainly been offered through loans and mortgages at low rates of interest.

The system adopted under agricultural legislation conforms to the specific requirements of the country. A network of special credit banks has been created in various provinces and regions, although care has been taken to avoid interference with other institutes specializing in the same field. Nor does such activity include other operations which banks in general are called upon to do or undertake in their own interests.

Agricultural Credit in 1955

Credit to agriculture during the 1955 financial year amounted to approximately 329 milliard lire. To this sum may be added additional sums loaned for voluntary and compulsory stockpiling of agricultural products, totalling 196 milliard lire. This brings the total to over 525 milliard lire, a figure which shows an increase of more than 42 % over 1954.

Table 3 - LOANS TO AGRICULTURE IN 1954 AND 1955
(millions of lire)

GEOGRAPHICAL DIVISION	Authorised Credit Institutes		Other Institutes		Loans for Stockpiles		Total	
	1954	1955	1954	1955	1954	1955	1954	1955
Northern Italy	77,230	92,212	15,200	58,000	88,354	112,500	180,784	262,712
%	42.7	35.1	8.4	22.1	48.9	42.8	100.0	100.0
Central Italy	18,202	26,226	9,500	25,000	56,231	59,500	83,933	110,726
%	21.7	23.7	11.3	22.5	67.0	53.8	100.0	100.0
Southern Italy		32,641		26,000		12,900		71,541
%	58,998	45.7	13,300	36.3	31,562	18.0	103,860	100.0
Insular Italy	56.8	44,895	12.8	24,000	30.4	11,300	100.0	80,195
%		56.0		30.0		14.0		100.0
ITALY	154,430	195,974	38,000	133,000	176,147	196,200	368,577	525,174
%	41.9	37.3	10.3	25.3	47.8	37.4	100.0	100.0

Official credit institutes extended their activities during 1955 totalling approximately — excluding loans for stockpiling — 196 milliard lire, a figure which is equal to 111 times that registered in 1938 and 126 times the average annual figure for the period 1928-40. In relation to 1954, the increase is about 27 % which, although slightly lower than that registered between 1953 and 1954 (28.4 %), confirms the fact that farmers are depending more and more on the loan facilities provided for them.

Examining the whole country, division of credit issued according to the scope for which it was required remained very much the same in 1955. 55.6 % was absorbed for farm administration purposes, 22.4 % concerned loans to cooperatives, farmers' associations, etc., 19.8 % for the purchase of machinery and livestock and 2.2 % issued as loans against mortgages on agricultural products. Even further

Table 4 - LOANS BY OFFICIAL CREDIT INSTITUTES IN 1954 AND 1955
(millions of lire)

GEOGRAPHICAL DIVISION		Farm Admini- stration	Purchase of Livestock & Machinery	Loans against agricultural products	Coops, Farmer's Assoc., etc.	Total
Northern Italy	1954.....	42,658	11,993	2,363	20,216	77,230
	1955.....	50,302	14,920	3,227	23,763	92,212
Central Italy	1954.....	6,796	5,138	36	6,232	18,202
	1955.....	10,207	7,702	2	8,315	26,226
Southern Italy	1954.....	13,960	3,458	574	6,068	24,060
	1955.....	18,644	4,828	556	8,613	32,641
Insular Italy	1954.....	22,379	9,816	577	2,166	34,938
	1955.....	29,738	11,356	553	3,248	44,895
ITALY	1954.....	85,793	30,405	3,550	34,682	154,430
	1955.....	108,891	38,806	4,338	43,939	195,974

investigation into each of these single sectors does not produce any notable differences, although there have been rises in amounts loaned for the purchase of machinery and livestock, particularly in the northern and southern regions. Loans against mortgages on agricultural products were mostly concentrated in the north, the figure reaching 75 % of the whole.

Much more interesting is an analysis of the variations which occurred between 1954 and 1955 in territorial division and in the various types of loans. In fact, such comparison shows that, in the northern regions, the overall increase in the value of operations was only 19.4 %, less than the national figure of 27 %. In the central, southern and insular regions, on the other hand, the increase is 44.1 %, 35.7 % and 28.5 percent respectively. The minor increase in North Italy is due to lower loans for farm operations (17.9 %) and loans to cooperatives and farmers' associations (17.5), that is, for purposes which have a higher rating elsewhere. Loans for the purchase of livestock and machinery are highest in the Central regions (49.9 %) and in the mainland regions of the south (39.6 %). Variations for such a category are much less marked in the North and the insular regions, being 24.4 % and 17.6 % respectively. As a result of these regional variations, territorial distribution of loans during the 1955 financial year appears slightly different to the proceeding year.

The northern regions, in fact, dropped from 50 % to 47 %, while the central areas rose from 11.8 % to 13.4 %, the southern mainland from 15.6 % to 16.6 % and insular Italy from 22.6 % to 22.9 %. Under Law No. 949 of July 25, 1952, loans issued by the State for the purchase of machinery rose, in 1955, to 57.4 milliard lire, of which 28.7 milliard for the northern regions, 15.3 milliard for the central regions, 10.6 milliard for the southern mainland and 2.8 milliard for the islands. Apart from banks specializing in agricultural credit, loans issued under the said law for the purchase of machinery totalled 5.6 milliard lire, that is, $\frac{5.6}{96.6} \approx 5.8\%$ of the operations effected by banks.

Loans for land improvement in 1955

During 1955, agricultural credit banks undertook operations connected with land improvement amounting to 53.6 milliard lire. This figure is approximately 51 % more than that registered in 1954, 220 times the average for the 1928-40 period and 244 times the

Table 5 - CREDIT FOR LAND IMPROVEMENT.
MORTGAGES ISSUED IN 1954 AND 1955
(millions of lire)

GEOGRAPHICAL DIVISION		Rural Buildings	Crops	Irrigation	Land Pre- paration Draining Roads	Small- Holdings	Other Expen- diture	Total
Northern Italy	1954.....	13,584	131	1,755	491	1,426	1,771	19,158
	1955.....	17,308	103	1,951	770	3,795	2,135	26,062
Central Italy	1954.....	5,369	132	868	112	410	867	7,758
	1955.....	6,877	103	965	109	1,075	665	9,794
Southern Italy	1954.....	1,911	62	621	380	175	825	3,974
	1955.....	2,302	336	573	1,751	397	7,765	13,124
Insular Italy	1954.....	1,089	322	814	578	152	1,516	4,477
	1955.....	1,058	349	821	732	239	1,418	4,617
ITALY	1954.....	21,953	647	4,058	1,561	2,163	4,979	35,361
	1955.....	27,545	891	4,310	3,362	5,506	11,983	53,597

figure for the year 1938. However, the figure for new loans appears slightly smaller (from 51 to approximately 48 milliard lire). The total loan requests approved and operations actually completed rose from 87.7 % to 97 %.

Examination of the nature of the investments and of the territorial division of mortgages shows a very marked increase of over 230 % (3.9 to 13.1 milliard lire) in the southern regions in respect of 1954. In this area, massive State intervention and various other forms of

agricultural aid formed an extensive land reformation programme (the southern mainland rose from 11.3 % to 24.5 %, while northern Italy dropped from 54.2 % to 48.6 %, the Central regions from 21.9 % to 18.3 % and insular Italy from 12.6 % to 8.6 %). Once again, in 1955, most of the loans issued by credit institutes were employed in rural building and the sums paid out on this account amount to more than half the total (51.3 %) although still not reaching the 1954 figure of 62 %. The low sums recorded for the southern mainland for this same category (17.5 %) are mostly due to the development of related sectors included under « other expenditure » (particularly the Southern Italy Development Fund) an item which absorbed 59 % of the total loans made. Small rises may be noted for crops and irrigation, and there is a strong increase under « land development and drying, etc. ». Loans for small holdings increased from 2.2 to 5.5 milliard lire between 1954 and 1955 and mostly concern the northern and central regions rather than the southern and insular areas, although major land reform activities were evident in the latter.

Apart from the activities of the agricultural credit banks, the greatest encouragement for the development of investments is provided by the budget of the *Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry*. Its estimates for the financial year 1953-54 foresaw an initial expenditure of 83,240 milliard lire which rose to 95,060 milliard lire in 1954-55 and dropped slightly to 90,980 milliard lire in 1955-56. Most of the sums invested relate to development of mountainous areas, rural building, purchase of machinery and irrigation.

The budgets of the autonomous regions have also played an important role in the current history of agricultural development and large sums have been paid out for reafforestation and land reclamation, particularly transformation and mechanised farming. These budgets have been subject to rapid increases and expenditure: in Sicily alone they rose from 25,821 million lire in 1951 to 36,472 million in 1954 and 43,722 million in 1955. For Sardinia, the figure rose from 11,531 million lire in 1951 to 13,491 million in 1954 and 19,903 million in 1955, Trentino-Alto Adige 3,004, 5,718 and 6,182 million respectively and for the Valle d'Aosta 2,871, 3,311 and 3,227 million.

Apart from the aid offered by the Ministry of Agriculture — through the introduction of labour centres and afforestation schools — the Southern Italy Development Fund has also accepted an important role in land development. The Fund's investments in agriculture have shown an impressive rise from 10,500 million in 1951 to 53,300 million in 1952, 93,300 million in 1953, 103,000 million in 1954 and 114,000 million in 1955.

Overall credit during 1956-57

Recent information shows that the level of agricultural credit rose to 354 milliard lire at December 31, 1957 (179.5 milliard for general running expenses and 175.0 for land reclamation projects). Of this figure, 238.8 milliard were provided by special credit banks and 115.7 milliard lire by other authorised banks and institutes.

Table 6 - TYPE AND COST OF OPERATIONS FINANCED

TYPE OF OPERATION	Situation 31-12		Operations effected					
	1956	1957	Total		% of total		% variation over previous year	
			1956	1957	1956	1957	1956	1957
<i>Credit for farm administration..</i>	164,902	179,514	212,655	220,586	82.2	82.0	+ 8.5	+ 3.7
Gen. administration	78,680	83,062	110,224	118,706	42.6	44.1	+ 1.2	+ 7.7
Purchase livestock, machinery	54,305	58,877	41,132	40,506	15.9	15.1	+ 6.0	- 1.5
Mortgages on products.....	1,845	4,195	3,834	7,259	1.5	2.7	- 11.6	+ 89.3
Loans to coops & associations	30,072	33,380	57,465	54,115	22.2	20.1	+ 30.8	- 5.8
<i>Credit for rural development....</i>	142,158	174,975	46,204	48,357	17.8	18.0	- 13.8	+ 4.7
Rural housing	83,716	100,734	26,779	25,334	10.3	9.4	- 2.8	- 5.4
New crops.....	3,930	4,195	678	717	0.3	0.3	- 23.9	+ 5.8
Irrigation.....	14,906	17,045	3,902	3,697	1.5	1.4	- 9.5	- 5.3
Land development	5,380	6,236	1,580	2,044	0.6	0.8	- 55.0	+ 29.4
Small holders	17,965	26,388	7,581	9,436	2.9	3.5	+ 37.7	+ 24.5
Other items	16,261	20,377	5,684	7,129	2.2	2.6	- 52.6	+ 25.4
<i>Total</i>	307,060	354,489	258,859	268,943	100 -	100 -	+ 3.7	+ 3.9
Special credit banks	203,122	238,837	130,427	134,741	50.4	50.1	+ 1.7	+ 3.3
Other banks	103,938	115,652	128,432	134,202	49.6	49.9	+ 5.8	+ 4.5

Geographical distribution of this sum is as follows: 187.4 milliard lire to northern Italy (85.3 milliard for running costs and 102.1 for land reclamation), 66.4 milliard lire to Central Italy (26.8 running expenses and 39.6 for land reclamation), 53.4 milliard lire to southern Italy (33.3 for running expenses and 20.1 for land reclamation) and 47.1 milliard lire to insular Italy (30.4 for running expenses and 13.1 milliard lire for land reclamation).

Such a situation is the result of gradual increases registered from year to year as from 1946. Such increases are as follows: 1946: +5.4 milliard lire; 1947: +14.9; 1948: +15.0; 1949: +15.6; 1950: +13.5; 1951: +13.6; 1952: +21.6; 1953: +33.9; 1954: +53.1; 1955: +61.8; 1956: +54.0; 1957: 47.4 milliard lire.

An examination of the data issued each year by the credit banks reveals that, over a ten year period, mortgages for a total of 1,556

Table 7 - CREDIT ISSUED PER GEOGRAPHICAL DIVISION

REASON FOR LOAN	Northern Italy	Central Italy	Southern Italy	Insular Italy
Farm administration	30.6	10.0	17.3	25.1
Purchase livestock, machinery, etc.	29.3	12.4	9.5	7.7
Loans to coops and associations	22.1	4.5	6.0	0.8
Rural Building	63.6	25.7	8.6	2.8
Irrigation	8.2	3.5	2.5	2.8
Small holdings	17.9	5.1	1.8	1.6

milliard lire (1,303 milliard lire under general farming requirements and 253 for land reclamation projects) were issued. Such sums were mostly absorbed by loans for general farm administration (44 %), purchase of livestock and machinery (15 %), loans to cooperatives and farmers' associations (21 %) and rural building (8 %). In 1957 alone, operations amounting to 269 milliard lire were completed, against 259 milliard in 1956 and 250 milliard lire in 1955, this being an increase of 10 milliard lire for each year.

Table 8 - CREDIT OPERATIONS PER GEOGRAPHICAL DIVISION

OPERATION	I t a l y							
	Northern		Central		Southern		Insular	
	1956	1957	1956	1957	1956	1957	1956	1957
<i>Credit for farm administration..</i>	97,983	98,771	30,696	32,123	37,913	44,298	46,063	45,394
Gen. administration	43,026	44,076	13,642	15,659	21,135	26,249	32,421	32,722
Purchase livestock, machinery	15,181	16,209	8,548	7,810	6,401	5,957	11,002	10,530
Loans to coops & farmer's assoc.	37,553	33,399	8,499	8,226	9,588	11,084	1,825	1,406
<i>Credit for land development</i>	27,229	25,937	10,155	11,455	4,156	5,557	4,664	5,408
Rural building	16,877	14,619	6,737	6,860	2,162	2,682	1,003	1,173
Reclamation	664	664	129	129	468	468		783
Small holders	6,413	6,320	1,190	1,944	437	806	1,121	366
Irrigation.....	1,845	1,773	1,049	781	440	468	568	675

The strongest rises may be noted between 1951-52 (+25.5 milliard lire), 1952-53 (+21.4 milliard lire), 1953-54 (+46.2 milliard lire) and 1954-55 (+59.8 milliard lire).

Credit expansion during the said years is closely related to Government action under the « Ten Year Agricultural Plan », a new undertaking in agricultural legislation as far as Italy is concerned.

The majority of loans and mortgages were made in the regions of northern Italy (46.4 % of all sums loaned in 1957), followed by insular Italy with 18.9 %, southern Italy with 18.5 % and Central Italy with 16.2 %.

In granting special loans under the law of July 1952, No. 949, the revolving fund has had more capital available during 1957 for the purchase of machinery. In fact, 16,481 new loans were approved for a total of 16.8 milliard lire. From the date of application of Law No. 949, up to December 1957, the Ministry of Agriculture authorised 72,995 loans for the purchase of machinery, totalling 84.6 miliard lire. Of this figure 54 % relates to the northern regions, 25 % to the central regions, 17 % to the south and 4 % to insular Italy.

Table 9 - PERCENTAGE VARIATIONS IN LOANS (1955-57)

TYPE OF LOAN & YEAR	Northern Italy	Central Italy	Southern Italy	Insular Italy	Total
<i>Total</i>					
1955	47.4	14.4	18.4	19.8	100
1956	48.4	15.8	16.2	19.6	100
1957	46.4	16.2	18.5	18.9	100
<i>Credit for general farm administration</i>					
1955	47.0	13.4	16.7	22.9	100
1956	46.1	14.4	17.8	21.7	100
1957	44.8	14.5	20.1	20.6	100
<i>Credit for land development</i>					
1955	48.6	18.3	24.5	8.6	100
1956	58.9	22.0	9.0	10.1	100
1957	53.6	23.7	11.5	11.2	100

It should be added that the norms contained in Law No. 949 of July 1952 and Law No. 1306 of December 1957 authorize loans to small holders and tenant farmers for the purchase of machinery.

Further, in order to encourage livestock development, on which the progress of agriculture depends to a very great extent, Law No. 777 of August 8, 1957, created a special fund of 5 milliard lire drawn from United States loans on surplus products. This law authorizes credit banks and other institutes to issue loans and mortgages.

One of the most important laws approved during 1957 (No. 595 of July 25, 1957) contemplates expenditure up to 2 milliard lire for loans and mortgages through credit banks for general farm administration, repayable over a period of five years at 3 %. Such loans are made to small farmers who have suffered through adverse weather conditions.

Finally, in order to lighten the crisis in wine growing and subsidize prices, a decree of September 14, 1957, No. 812, authorises State contributions up to 4% on interest payable on loans to wine cooperatives and associations holding large stockpiles of grapes and wine

« L'ACCADEMIA NAZIONALE DEI LINCEI »

The history, nature and structure of the ancient institution

The famous *Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei* dates back several hundred years. It was instituted on August 17, 1603, in a scientific agreement between four young scholars, *Federico Cesi*, son of the first Duke of Acquasparta, then 18 years old; *Giovanni Heck*, a Dutchman from Deventer, holding a degree in medicine from the University of Perugia, then 26 years old; *Francesco Stelluti* di Fabriano, naturalist and translator of *Perseus*, aged 26, and Count *Anastasio de Filiis*, of Terni, also aged 26. They were fired with enthusiasm for the works of *Galileo* and formed a scientific core, to which they gave the name « Lincei », or Lynxes, intending to symbolize the desire to seek far into the mysteries of nature with the acute eyesight of this feline.

The initial difficulties of the group resulted in their separation and in their wandering individually in various places, but the flame of enthusiasm which fired them to start the society did not die, and, as they had kept contact with one another during the years from 1605 to 1624, by means of letters, they found themselves in a better position to determine the statutes of the Academy. From the original programme of 1605, entitled the *Lynceographum*, they developed the *Praescriptiones Academiae Lynceorum* of 1624. This imposed predetermined obligations of study and knowledge on the members, giving predominance to mathematics and the natural sciences, but not neglecting philology and letters. At this time, *Giambattista Della Porta* and later even the great *Galileo Galilei* associated themselves with the Academy, the meetings of which were normally held in the Cesi palace or in the home of one of the other members. At such meetings, arguments of scientific interest or of general interest to society were discussed, as well as the publication of works written by the members, the expense of which was defrayed almost entirely by the enlightened philanthropy of *Federico Cesi*.

It was in this manner that the Galileo's letters on sun spots were published in 1613, while the *Saggiatore* was published in 1622 and the *Tesoro messicano* in 1651. Unfortunately, however, in 1630, when this latter work was practically ready for publication, Federico Cesi died unexpectedly, and with his death the Academy lost its inspiration, notwithstanding the efforts of the other members to keep it alive.

The physico-mathematical academy instituted in Rome in 1795 at the palace of the Duke *Caletani di Sermoneta* was intended as a continuation of the old academy. In 1804, it abandoned the name it had assumed in 1801 of *Nuovi Lincei*, and took the title of *Accademia dei Lincei*. Even after the Reform of 1813, this academy continued to exist around, and be strongly influenced by the figure of Abbot *Feliciano Scarpellini*, a man accustomed to gathering all authority into his own hands. After his death it was closed by the government of Pope Gregory XVI in 1840. However Pope *Pius IX*, in 1847, revived the tradition, calling the reopened institute the *Accademia Pontificia dei Nuovi Lincei*.

When Rome became the capital of the Kingdom of Italy in 1870, the cultural body became the *Reale Accademia dei Lincei*, and a period of prosperity and vitality started for the institute under the guidance of *Quintino Sella*, who headed it from 1871 until 1884. The present site of the academy in *Palazzo Corsini alla Lungara* dates from 1883.

As the academy was strengthened and built up, important and valuable libraries were collected which, covering all fields of knowledge and continuously increased by gifts and purchases, constitute an important inheritance of the academy and its annexed institutes today. In 1883, a reform of the statute increased the number of members and enlarged the category of sciences admitted to the academy. Sciences and subjects were sub-divided in classes and categories, and the weight of the academy, at the apex of national culture, continued to increase.

The advent of the Fascist regime signalled the end of the *Accademia dei Lincei* which, after various legislative vicissitudes lasting from 1926 until 1939, was substituted by the *Accademia d'Italia*. After July 25, 1943, *Benedetto Croce* proposed the suppression of the *Accademia d'Italia* and the revival of the *Accademia dei Lincei*. This proposal was actuated in September 28, 1944, with two decrees, and a further decree in 1945 introduced a new category of art and letters in the Class of Moral Science. The statute of 1920 was once

more declared in force and the Accademia dei Lincei took up its normal activity again in the following year, 1946-47.

The academy issues several periodical publications and each year offers national prizes and awards by the numerous foundations which are annexed to it (for example the *Volta*, *Feltrinelli* and *Donegani* Foundations).

Furthermore, during the last ten years other prizes have been instituted by Presidents *Luigi Einaudi* and *Giovanni Gronchi*. These prizes are granted every year for various subjects; in 1956, they were awarded for physics and archaeology, in 1957 for chemistry and for criticism of art and poetry, and in 1958 for geology, paleontology, mineralogy, history, and historical and anthropological geography.

The following table lists subjects divided into two main categories, and comprising practically all branches of human knowledge.

PHYSICAL AND NATURAL SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS

- Category I – Mathematics, applied mathematics and mechanics.
- Category II – Astronomy, geodesy, geophysics and applied sciences.
- Category III – Physics, chemistry and applied sciences.
- Category IV – Geology, paleontology, mineralogy and applied sciences.
- Category V – Biology and applied sciences.

MORAL AND HISTORICAL SCIENCES, CRITICISM AND PHILOLOGY

- Category I – Philology and languages.
- Category II – Archaeology.
- Category III – Criticism of art and poetry.
- Category IV – History and historical and anthropological geography.
- Category V – Philosophical sciences.
- Category VI – Juridical sciences.
- Category VII – Social and political sciences.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

OF THE INFORMATION SERVICE OF THE PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS – Rome

Periodical

Documenti di vita Italiana, a monthly review in Italian of Italian politics, economics and finance (Year VIII).

Documents de la Vie Italienne, a two-monthly review in French of Italian politics, economics and finance (Year VII).

Hoy en Italia, a two-monthly review in Spanish of Italian politics, economics and finance (Year VIII).

Documenti – Berichte über das Leben in Italien, a two-monthly review in German of Italian politics, economics and finance (Year VII).

Vita Italiana, monthly posters in Italian of political documentation (at 55th issue).

Non periodical

The Service also edits series of volumes and pamphlets for distribution in Italy and abroad. The following volumes have been published, among others: « *Italie d'aujourd'hui* » (out of print) – « *Italy Today* » (out of print) – « *La Italia de hoy* » (out of print) – « *Italien von Heute* » (out of print) – « *Un decennio di vita italiana: 1946-1956* » – « *Un decennio de vida italiana* » – « *Ten Years of Italian Democracy: 1946-1956* » – « *Dix ans de démocratie en Italie* ».

The following pamphlets were published only in Italian: « *Comunicati del Consiglio dei Ministri* » (Communiqués of the Council of Ministers), « *Elezioni amministrative* » (Local Elections), « *Discorsi del Presidente Gronchi negli Stati Uniti* » (Speeches of President Gronchi in the United States), « *La questione ungherese e il Canale di Suez* » (The Question of Hungary and the Suez Canal), various monographs, celebrations of special events, etc.

The Service distributes, on request, photographs documenting Italian life or plastic clichés, to Italian and foreign newspapers; it is also responsible for the production of film documentaries illustrating the development of Italian life. The documentaries produced — many of which have been dubbed in a number of languages and distributed abroad — total 150.

TECHNICAL TRAINING IN THE ARMED FORCES

OBJECTIVES AND FUNCTIONS OF RADIO TRAINING SCHOOLS

The Italian Ministry of Labour recently issued special regulations concerning the recognition of technical diplomas obtained by members of the Armed Forces at military training centres. In imparting these instructions, the Department for Employment and Vocational Training of the said Ministry clearly stated that civilian employers should regard these diplomas on the same level as those issued by normal training institutes (1). Such official recognition points to the worth of these courses and the *Scuola Specializzati Trasmissioni* (Advanced Communications School) has a training programme which is no exception to the rule.

This School has been developed from the original C.A.R. (2) *Genio Collegamenti di San Giorgio* (Communications Engineers) at Cremona. This was originally formed on July 1, 1948, for the specific task of offering advanced and specialist training to all the «Communications Engineers» then in service. Because of a sharp rise in the number of National Service recruits and an increase in the number of volunteers for permanent service, this school has mainly concentrated on the training of radio operators and mechanics for the three branches of the Armed Forces as well as telephone switchboard operators, maintenance mechanics, etc.

Subsequent modifications to the military structure have not greatly altered the objectives for which the centre was originally formed. Generally, about 1,200 trainees are attending the school for training in the reception and sending of Morse.

On April 1, 1954, the school assumed the name of *Scuola Specializzati Trasmissioni* (Advanced Radio Communications School) and came

(1) See also: *Italian Army Training Today* - «Italian Affairs», Vol. VI, No. 6, pp. 1961-1970.

(2) C.A.R. - Centro Addestramento Reclute (Recruit Training Depot).

under the direct orders of the Army Staff Command - Radio Communications Branch. This change of name coincided with various changes in the training programme and the normal courses for radio operators and mechanics were extended to include teletype operators, telephone switchboard operators and telegraphists from all three branches of the Armed Forces.

It is responsible for entry, preliminary and advanced training and offers specialist courses to radio operators, telephone operators, teletype-operators and telegraph maintenance mechanics.

According to the directives under which the school operates, courses are also available to the following:

members of the *Carabinieri*, *Finance Guards* and *Public Security Forces* (radio operators, telegraphists and teletype operators);

N.C.O's recalled for service and originally belonging to communications groups;

specialist courses for serving N.C.O's belonging to artillery regiments.

The school has had to modernize its equipment in order to meet present day progress in communications. The experience gained over past years and installation of new apparatus has enabled it to successfully carry out the exacting task imposed by the military authorities. On the other hand, the introduction of new methods and progress in military science require constant modifications to training methods and changes to the curriculum followed.

The *Scuola Trasmissioni* is the most advanced training centre of its kind, since it caters for the training of regular officers and N.C.O's, offers refresher courses to officers and N.C.O's on the reserve and gives advanced courses for specialist national service and regular troops of the Communications Branch.

Additional activities of the school include refresher courses for officers of the other branches of the Armed Forces and courses for specialists in the *Carabinieri* and the *Finance Guards*.

The « *Scuola Trasmissioni* » was originally created under the complex programme for the reconstruction of the Armed Forces which came into operation immediately after the end of the second World War. Experiences gained during hostilities, the rapid technical progress which was made, the adoption of more complex methods and the growing importance of communications to all military operations, persuaded the General Staff to open a school which would deal exclusively with the training of personnel for the radio and communications branch. The question was all the more important because the Engineers were no longer responsible for communications under the new Army ruling.

This led to the formation of the *Scuola Trasmissioni* on January 1, 1946 which was given the specific task of providing training for all recruits liable for posting to the communications branches of the three Services. Since 1948, emphasis has been given the preparation of telegraph and telephone maintenance mechanics, telephone switchboard operators, teletype operators, telegraphists, line mechanics, radio operators, electricians for generators and despatch riders.

When the *C.A.R. Genio Collegamenti* (the present *Scuola Specializzati delle Trasmissioni*) was brought into being in July 1948, part of these original training responsibilities were transferred to the new training centre, the *Scuola Trasmissioni* assuming a new structure and holding itself liable for refresher courses and advanced training for officers and N.C.O's of all three services, special courses for reserve officers and, successively, for N.C.O's on the reserve. All this was in addition to other training facilities offered for national service recruits in other branches of the Services.

Today, the school is essentially responsible for the preparation of part of the required number of specialists, particularly those concerned with maintenance. Generally speaking, the training programme is as follows:

- training courses for senior officers (two per year);
- applied technical courses for junior officers;
- training courses for officers from other branches of the Armed Forces (two per year);
- refresher courses for officers and N.C.O's recalled to the Armed Forces;
- training courses for officer cadets on National Service;
- telegraph and radio specialization (two per year);
- training courses for N.C.O's: switchboard operators, radio operators, maintenance staff, teletype operators (two per year);
- training courses for N.C.O's of the three services and affiliated corps, advanced courses for radio mechanics, telegraph maintenance staff, radio mechanics, photographers, cine-camera operators.

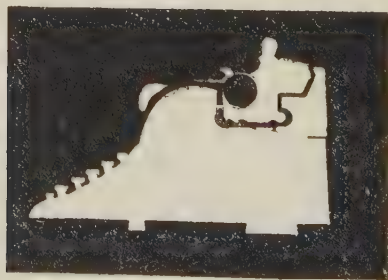
The school also offers other courses (three per year) for communications personnel of all services desirous of becoming specialists in the following branches: radio mechanics, electricians, morse operators, radio operators, photographers, cine-camera operators.

All such activity is accompanied by another and equally important undertaking. The school is responsible for the compilation, publishing and distribution of technical instructions relating to communi-

cations, the circulation of illustrated booklets and films on technical questions to Army, Navy and Air Force units and the editing of an « Information Bulletin ». This latter publication was introduced in 1949 and has proved to be a great success. Under the title of *Notiziario delle Trasmissioni* it is distributed throughout all military circles.

The ever growing importance of the school in relation to the satisfactory functioning of the communications branches of the Armed Forces is easy to understand when it is realized that tactical and strategic military operations are greatly dependent on the possibility of units being constantly in contact with one another.

The *Scuola Trasmissioni*, which comes under the orders of the General Staff -- Radio Communications Branch, is being constantly modified and modernized. Progress in technical science, particularly in electronics, calls for constant modifications to the training programme. In a modern army, the operation and maintenance of delicate and complicated machinery and installations call for highly skilled men, who can only be trained under a programme which is correctly administered and which is made available only to those who have been selected for their ability and desire to learn an interesting and valuable technical trade.



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FOREIGNERS RESIDENT IN ITALY

The information contained in this article has been taken from Volume VII of the Year Book issued by the *Istituto Centrale di Statistica* - ISTAT (Central Institute of Statistics) during 1958.

For the purpose of examining the figures given by the Institute, it should be remembered that, under the census taken in 1951, the word «foreigner» was applied to all those persons who did not hold Italian citizenship at that time, irrespective of place of birth or nationality. «Foreigners resident» pertains to those normally living in Italy, while «foreigners present» refers to those whose presence was of a temporary nature.

Tab. 1 - GENERAL INFORMATION

FOREIGNERS PER SEX AND PROFESSIONAL STATUS	Census			GEOGRAPHICAL DIVISION	Census		
	1931	1936	1951		1931	1936	1951
<i>Foreigners present ..</i>	137,797	108,597	82,580		<i>Absolute figures</i>		
Male	63,398	51,234	44,184	N. Italy	95,995	75,309	42,648
Female	74,399	57,363	38,396	C. Italy	29,194	25,160	28,526
% male...	46.0	47.2	53.5	S. Italy	8,704	5,988	8,909
<i>Foreigners resident ..</i>	83,027	73,920	47,177	Insular Italy	3,904	2,140	2,497
Male	36,603	33,914	22,643		<i>% on total</i>		
Female	46,424	40,006	24,534	N. Italy	69.7	69.3	51.7
% male...	44.1	45.9	48.0	C. Italy	21.2	23.2	34.5
% of resident for- eigners on total pre- sent	60.3	68.1	57.1	S. Italy	6.3	5.5	10.8
Resident with pro- fessional status ...	38,635	36,292	22,218	Insular Italy	2.8	2.0	3.0
Resident with no pro- fessional status ...	44,392	37,628	24,959	<i>Total...</i>	100 -	100 -	100 -

Figures relative to persons having no nationality are presented separately. This differs from the original practice of considering them as belonging to those states to which their former citizenship referred or according to the nationality they themselves declared.

According to the 1951 census (November 4), 82,580 foreigners were registered in Italy, this being approximately 0.17 % of the total popu-

lation. The census of April 21, 1936 showed 108,597 (0.26 % of the population). The contraction, therefore, was 24 %.

Of the 82,580 foreigners present in Italy, 47,177 were classified as being residents (57.1 % of the total) and 35,403 as present on a temporary basis (42.9 %). Women represent 46.5 % of the former figure but 52.0 % of the latter.

Examination of the geographical distribution of foreigners in Italy according to nationality, as per the 1951 census, shows that 66 % belonged to European states. Those holding the nationality of states bordering on Italy (France, Switzerland, Austria and Yugoslavia), totalled 26.5 %, or 28.9 % if the Vatican City State and the Republic of San Marino are also included.

Table 2 - FOREIGNERS PRESENT AND RESIDENT IN ITALY ACCORDING TO NATIONALITY

STATE	Foreigners				STATE	Foreigners			
	Pre-sent	Resi-dent	%			Pre-sent	Resi-dent	%	
			Pres.	Res.				Pres.	Res.
Europe and U.S.S.R.	56,739	35,129	68.7	74.5	Asia	2,046	949	2.5	2.5
Albania	569	284	0.7	0.6	Afghanistan, Nepal,				
Austria	4,420	3,316	5.3	7.0	Iran, Thailand..	218	149	0.3	0.3
Belgium	813	500	1.0	1.1	China	438	271	0.5	0.6
Bulgaria	388	129	0.5	0.3	India	314	34	0.4	0.1
Czechoslovakia	818	534	1.0	1.1	Other states	1,076	495	1.3	1.0
Denmark	471	165	0.6	0.3					
France	5,332	2,897	6.4	6.1	Africa	964	366	1.2	0.8
W. Germany	8,245	6,190	10.0	13.1	Egypt	485	185	0.6	0.4
E. Germany	696	342	0.8	0.7	Other states	479	181	0.6	0.4
Greece	2,775	1,213	3.4	2.6					
Ireland	488	347	0.6	0.7	America	14,485	5,468	17.5	11.6
Yugoslavia	5,099	2,373	6.2	5.0	Canada	561	350	0.7	0.7
Norway	547	95	0.7	0.2	United States.....	10,133	3,547	12.2	7.5
Low Countries	1,137	584	1.4	1.2	Argentina	1,217	492	1.5	1.1
Poland	1,621	1,187	2.0	2.5	Brazil	918	400	1.1	0.8
Portugal	324	185	0.4	0.4	Venezuela	217	85	0.3	0.2
United Kingdom ..	5,758	2,637	7.0	5.6	Other states	1,439	594	1.7	1.3
Roumania	585	259	0.7	0.5					
San Marino	1,936	1,938	2.3	4.1	Oceania	441	143	0.5	0.3
Spain	2,472	1,722	3.0	3.8	Australia	410	130	0.5	0.3
Sweden	610	224	0.7	0.5	Other states	31	13
Switzerland	7,084	6,021	8.6	12.8					
Turkey	627	355	0.7	0.8	Without any national-				
Hungary	1,179	782	1.4	1.7	ity	7,905	5,122	9.6	10.8
Vatican	66	51	0.1	0.1					
Other states	768	519	0.9	1.1	Total...	82,580	47,177	100 -	100 -
Europe...	54,828	34,848	66.4	73.9					
U.S.S.R....	1,911	280	2.3	0.6					

The most important group is formed by German citizens (8,245 from the Federal Republic and 696 from the Democratic Republic). This is followed by Switzerland with 7,084. These two groups are equal to 10.8 and 8.6 percent of the total. Greek and Spanish nationals

form groups of over 2,000 persons, representing 3.4 % and 3.0 % respectively of the total. These are followed by Poland (2.0 %), Hungary (1.4 %) and the Low Countries (1.4 %). Russian citizens amount to 2.3 % of the total.

Of foreigners representing extra-European states, the largest group is formed by United States citizens (10,133-12.2 %) and persons without nationality (7,905-9.6 %).

Examining figures pertaining to foreigners resident in Italy, but holding European nationalities, it will be found that Germany heads the list with 13.8 % of the total. Switzerland is second with 12.8 %, followed by Austria (7.0 %) and France (6.1 %). The United Kingdom is represented by 5.6 % and Yugoslavia by 5.0 %. Extra-European states have a very minor representation, with the exception of the United States with 7.5 % of foreigners resident. Persons without nationality are equal to 10.8 %.

Of the foreigners present in Italy on a temporary basis, the chief groups are represented by citizens of the United States (18.6 %), the United Kingdom (8.8 %), Yugoslavia (7.7 %), France (6.9 %), Germany (Federal Republic, 5.8 %), the U.S.S.R. (4.6 %), Greece (4.4 %) and Switzerland (3.0 %). Persons without nationality total 7.9 % of persons present in Italy on a temporary basis at the time of the census.

Percentage distribution of foreigners present, in comparison to foreigners resident, throughout the various regions of Italy is as follows: Lazio (27 % against 25.9 %), Lombardy (14.7 % against 22.9 %), Territory of Trieste (10.3 % against 7.2 %), Campania (9.0 % against 4.3 %), Liguria (8.2 % against 6.1 %), Trentino-Alto Adige (7.1 % against 10 %), Tuscany (5.2 % against 3.9 %), Piedmont (4 % against 5.1 %), Veneto (3.4 % against 2.3 %), Emilia and Romagna (2.9 % against 4.1 %), Sicily (2.9 % against 2.0 %), Marches (1.1 % against 1.7 %), Friuli-Venezia Giulia (1 % against 1.5 %), Apulia (0.7 % against 0.7 %), Umbria (0.5 % against 0.7 %), Abruzzi and Molise (0.5 % against 0.6 %), Calabria (0.5 % against 0.5 %), Basilicata (0.1 % against 0.1 %), Valle d'Aosta (0.1 % against 0.2 %) and Sardinia (0.1 % against 0.2 %).

More than half the foreigners present on a temporary basis or resident in Italy, are concentrated in northern Italy, approximately one third in central Italy and approximately one tenth in southern and insular Italy.

47.1 % of the resident foreigners have some professional status. Of these, 41.5 % are engaged in various activities, 29.8 % in commerce and various services, 20.8 % in industry and 7.9 % in agriculture, fishing and hunting.

ITALIAN LINES



I T A L I A

North and South America - Central America North and South Pacific

LLOYD TRIESTINO

Asia - Africa - Australia

ADRIATICA

Egypt - Israel - Lebanon - Syria - Cyprus - Turkey - Black Sea - Greece

TIRRENIA

Libya - Tunis - Sicily - Sardinia - Corsica - Malta - Marseilles - Spain - Northern Europe

Blind, Deaf and Dumb Welfare

The National Movement for the Blind

During the past few years new legislation has radically altered the attitude of the State towards blind persons, many of whom can be rehabilitated and perform useful tasks in society. Public and private homes and associations, schools for the blind, vocational training centres, colleges, hospices, summer holiday camps and special courses for persons specializing in the care of the blind have existed in Italy for many years and there has been no lack of attempts to ensure that blind persons are not cut off from society by reason of their infirmity. However, under the *Law of August 9, 1954, No. 632* (see pp. 2535-36), the question was faced more organically with the creation of the National Movement for the Blind.

Article 4 of this law authorized a life pension for those blind persons unable to work or without proper means. On the other hand, those responsible for drafting this law did not approach the problem from the rather limited view of offering public assistance to persons unable to support themselves. They also considered the rather more particular situation created by the loss of sight, admitting that the circumstances should not be considered in the light of poor law assistance, but in more humanistic terms. The law itself, referred to a «life pension» and not to a «subsistence allowance» and also includes all the juridical and administrative advantages already approved under earlier legislation. Exception was made over obligations under the Civil Code, but there is abundant evidence that the law itself was drafted in such a way as to embrace all existing legislation and decrees in favour of blind persons, and so enable such a category to readapt itself and have confidence in the State.

The body which was founded for the purpose of putting such principles into practice is known as the «National Movement for the Blind». Article 1 of Law No. 632 sets out the tasks of this organization as 1) providing a life pension for blind persons in accordance with the

regulations established and 2) coordinating and developing all action taken by private and public associations in favour of blind persons, particularly in relation to vocational training and rehabilitation. The Movement is also responsible for drafting common projects to be undertaken by such associations and advising them as to the best path to be followed in particular cases. It may also request information on private initiatives, express opinions on modifications to associations for the blind and give advice when held necessary.

There are always initial difficulties to be encountered and the Movement, on its foundation, found itself considerably hampered by a lack of statistical data on which it could base future action. Officials were called upon to deal with a vast quantity of requests for assistance and, since the task of sifting through them was beyond all reasonable possibility, a second Committee was created to assist that brought into being under Article 23 of Law No. 632.

In spite of the many obstacles which have hampered initial, efficient operation, the Movement has made great progress during its three years of existence, progress which can, perhaps, be better explained with figures. 120,000 requests for assistance have been forwarded to it, of which approximately 41 % have not been approved. Up to June 30, 1958, 45,587 life pensions had been awarded. Of the 16,000 requests forwarded to the special committee authorised to re-examine demands for assistance (as foreseen under Article 25 of the regulations) 702 have been approved, 4,565 rejected. while the rest are still under examination.

When applying for a life pension, the blind person must prove that his sight is limited to one tenth normal sight, a condition which is also common to other European states (Holland, from 5-60 to 6-60) but much less restrictive than the regulations adopted by Western German (1-60). The blind person must also be in possession of Italian citizenship and be resident in Italy, have reached the age of eighteen years, be unable to pursue profitable employment and prove that his needs correspond to a minimum of 15,000 lire per month. The last condition, however, is tempered by the fact that it is not applied to those who are unable to follow rehabilitation treatment because of other impediments, for which they are not directly responsible, or those who have passed the age of 45 years. Further modifications to the last named condition have also been introduced by the Council of State which has ruled that a life pension for blind persons may also be added to those pensions received from other organizations, such as the « Social Welfare Institute» (*Istituto per la Previdenza Sociale*) the « Institute for Labour Accidents» (*Istituto per gli Infortuni sul Lavoro*)

Pensions are not available to those who are undergoing prison sentences or to those persons who, although eligible for such, are found guilty of begging.

The sum is established at Lire 14,000 monthly for persons who are totally blind, Lire 12,000 for persons with sight which is less than 1/20 and Lire 10,000 monthly for those with a sight of 1/20 to 1/10 and persons living in rehabilitation or training centres or other homes which are financed by public funds. Although it may be claimed that individual amounts are somewhat modest, it should be remembered that pensions to the blind cost the State approximately 4,200 million per annum. Further, although such a figure is less than that paid in the United Kingdom (1), it is equal to that paid to the blind by such a rich State as Western Germany (2).

Law No. 632 has been followed by other legislation in favour of the blind. This embraces such factors as exemption from increases to blocked rents and from payment of university fees. However, the most important decision taken has been that contemplated by Law No. 594 of July 14, 1955 (3) which requires that blind persons be employed as telephone switchboard operators. This decision has started a policy which aims at enabling blind persons to find a place in the normal productive life of the country. While permitting several thousands of trained, blind persons to be employed in satisfactory and dignified employment, it also opens new paths to those who are the unfortunate sufferers of an affliction which is beyond their control. Such a policy should prove to be a new motive for fresh confidence and belief in the future.

(1) Unmarried persons: 60 shillings per week; married persons: 87 sh. per week.

(2) 90 Dm per month, equal to 13,500 lire.

(3) Article 2 of the said law reads as follows:

Public Departments, Public Organizations and State controlled enterprises shall, as per Article 6 of the Decree of February 5, 1948, No. 61 and Article 12 of the Decree of April 7, 1948, No. 262, employ blind persons as telephone switchboard operators in all offices or factories equipped with a switchboard requiring more than one operator.

This obligation shall also be extended to all private enterprise operating under the same conditions as above, as from the publication of this present law.

For the purpose of the above, telephone switchboards shall be considered as those which are installed in offices or factories and which are responsible for outgoing or incoming calls over more than one line. The present law shall not be applied in the case of switchboards which are at the service of the public.

The furnishing of special instruments, or modifications to telephone switchboards, to permit employment of blind persons shall be the responsibility of the *Unione Italiana dei Ciechi* (The Italian Union for the Blind).

The Deaf and Dumb Institute

The *Ente Nazionale per la Protezione e l'Assistenza dei Sordomuti* (The Deaf and Dumb Institute) was founded under Law No. 889 of May 12, 1942, its main task being the rehabilitation of deaf and dumb persons. Subsequent modifications came about under Law No. 698 of August 21, 1950. Historically speaking, the Institute came into being in 1920, after the Genoa Congress had drawn attention to the need for a proper organization for the deaf and dumb. Successively, Law No. 3126 of December 31, 1923, introduced compulsory elementary schooling for the deaf and dumb. A meeting at Padua in 1932 outlined plans for a special organization which would have the specific task of caring for such a category of persons and it was in this city that the Deaf and Dumb Institute carried on its labours during the war years. It was only in 1946 that it transferred its offices to Rome where it was initially administered by a temporary committee and afterwards by a special Commission elected during a National Congress in the Italian capital.

A recent census, carried out by the Institute, the results of which are still being examined, gives a fairly accurate picture of the deaf and dumb population in Italy. There are, in all, 51,000 of which 28 % are unable to work and belong to poor families, while approximately 40 % lack employment because of inadequate vocational and general training.

The programme started by the Institute is based on the principle of providing adequate education and preparation, and enabling deaf and dumb persons to return to a normal life. It has endeavoured to promote legislation and organizations which will assure a complete elementary education^{for} minors up to the age of 14 years and offer subsequent advanced schooling and vocational training. Provisions have also been made for employment of adults, while a special subsistence allowance is made available to those unable to work or who are in reduced circumstances.

The Deaf and Dumb Institute has also supported the idea of better salaries for specialized teachers and has founded *schools and introduced vocational training courses* which aim at bringing deaf and dumb persons to the stage whereby they can find employment suitable to them. These courses may be favourably compared to those promoted by the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare in favour of unskilled manpower. Schools under the jurisdiction of the Deaf and Dumb Institute are at present to be found in *Ancona* (Carpenters' School, with board), *Bologna* (Girls' Vocational Training Centre - wool products, with board), *Cagliari* (Girls' Vocational Training Centre - Embroidery

and Dressmaking), ⁷/₈ Florence (Dental mechanics, with board), Milan (Photogravure and Girls' Institute (shirtmaking, pottery, dressmaking, etc., with board), Padua (Printing – linotype, book-binding, offset, with board), Palermo (engraving), Rome (engraving – linotype, compositors, bookbinding, with board; School of tailoring and dressmaking, with board), Reggio Calabria (bookbinding), Turin (fitters and mechanical engineering, with board), Trieste (engraving and book binding, with board; dressmaking and wool products, with board).

In Padua, the Institute has opened the first « National Institute of Secondary and Senior School Education for the Deaf and Dumb » (*Istituto Nazionale di Studi Medi e Superiori per Sordomuti*) which has been in operation for over three years. When completely finished, this Institute, the first of its kind in Europe, will have all the characteristics of the « Gallaudet College » in Washington (the American university for the deaf and dumb) in both method and organization. Finally, a school for illiterate adults has been opened in Milan.

In carrying out the many responsibilities assigned to it, the Institute has to pay careful attention to its financial possibilities which, prior to 1950, were limited inasmuch as all contributions came from members and private sources. Between 1950 and 1953, it received a special grant of 24 million lire from the State. From 1953 onwards it has received a normal yearly grant of 375 million lire from the State, but this figure rose to 750 million lire in 1957.

From the very beginning the Deaf and Dumb Institute organized local offices, since these were considered essential to its successful operation. At December 31, 1956, there were 14 Regional Delegations, 69 Provincial Committees and 55 local Council Committees, all of which operated under chairmen who offer their services freely. Each Regional Delegation or Provincial Committee has one or more social assistants who carry out a programme which embraces legal assistance, medical aid, entry of deaf and dumb persons into special institutes or vocational training centres, the education of minors, employment and many other forms of assistance. There has been a considerable increase in the number of these assistants who have grown from 12,937 in 1949 to 29,412 in 1956.

Law No. 308 of March 13, 1958, contains regulations covering the *compulsory employment of deaf and dumb persons*. Article 1 of this law says: « Public Departments, with the exception of the State Railways, and Public organizations and State controlled enterprise and municipalized firms, as well as private companies, shall be obliged to employ, without any form of competitive entry, deaf and dumb persons as auxiliary personnel within the limits of not more than one per cent of the positions available: a) this shall be applied in the

case of auxiliary personnel employed by Public Departments and b) for all personnel employed on other State organizations, offices and industrial enterprises».

The greatest burden on the yearly budget of the Deaf and Dumb Institute is, of course, represented by the *subsistence allowances*. 24,000 persons, held to be unable to work or belonging to families in very reduced circumstances, as per the decisions of the Committee approved by the Ministry of the Interior in 1953, receive such allowances each year. Special attention is given those deaf and dumb persons who, although qualified in certain arts or trades, lack the necessary materials and tools. Such persons are provided with suitable equipment and, since such a practice has produced excellent results, a special Commission was created in January 1957 for the express purpose of examining requests of this kind.

Other kinds of assistance take the form of scholarships for needy deaf and dumb persons who, from an educational viewpoint, are judged to be capable of reaching a high standard. The Institute's discussions and agreements with Council and Public Authorities, over the question of medical aid to all classes of deaf and dumb persons, have proved to be extremely fruitful although, in certain cases, direct aid is given by the Institute itself.

Sport and physical education, considered to be of particular importance in the physico-psychological rehabilitation of deaf and dumb persons, have been the object of great attention on the part of the interested authorities. Organized sport for this category dates back to 1925 and major development was made in football. The «Italian Deaf and Dumb Sports Committee» (*Comitato Sportivo Sordomuti Italiani*), which was the organization chiefly responsible at that time, obtained great successes during the period 1922-1949. In 1954, Italian deaf and dumb persons, in order to obtain greater financial advantages and introduce greater stability to the Committee, decided that it should become part of the Deaf and Dumb Institute. Such a decision gave rise to the *Centro di Fisica e Sport* (Centre for Physical Training and Sport) of the Deaf and Dumb Institute, which later became the *Federazione Sport Silenziosi d'Italia* (The Italian Deaf and Dumb Sports Federation). Encouragement has been given to all forms of sport, including winter sports, and international meetings and competitions have been organized, one of the most important being the «*Nations' Cross*». Rifle ranges have been built at Florence, Milan, Como and Catania. Basketball is played at Pavia and the second place gained by the Pavia team at the 1953 Brussels Games is proof of the ability of these youngsters. Nor should it be forgotten that the world featherweight championship was won by Mario D'Agata or that Ignazio Fabra

won the world's wrestling championship in 1955. Antonio Massi won a silver medal for wrestling at the Olympic Games in Melbourne and later the Italian title in 1956.

Since 1950, the Institute has held annual national meetings attended by representatives of the deaf and dumb associations, and arranged conventions for members of the various committees, who are able to discuss technical questions concerned with assistance to deaf and dumb persons. In September 1951, the Deaf and Dumb Institute organized the «1st. World Congress of Deaf and Dumb Persons» which was attended by delegates from 41 nations. This congress achieved considerable importance, because it gave rise to a «World Federation of the Deaf», a permanent organization which has direct relations with the United Nations. This Federation will enable amply study and research to be made on problems strictly connected with deafness and will promote assistance programmes for sufferers, all over the world.

Extract of Law No. 632 of August 9, 1954 on the National Movement for the Blind (see pages 2529-2531).

Art. 1. A National Movement for the Blind shall be created. Apart from the responsibilities set out in the following para. 4, the Movement shall also be responsible for coordinating and developing, within the field of training and technical qualification of blind persons and labour organization, all similar activities undertaken by public and private institutes and organizations. The Movement shall be considered as a public department with independent administration. It shall be under the control of the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare and the Ministry of the Treasury, which shall maintain their authority within the limits under Article 7. For fiscal purposes, the Movement shall be considered in the same way as all Public Departments.

Art. 2. The Movement shall be under the authority of an Administrative Committee composed of a Chairman, appointed under a decree issued by Prime Minister, and six members, one of whom shall represent the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, one the Ministry of the Treasury, one the Ministry of the Interior and three representing the Italian Union of the Blind (Unione Italiana Ciechi). The said six members shall be appointed by the Prime Minister. The three members representing the Ministries shall be appointed in joint agreement with the Ministers concerned, while those representing the Italian Union of the Blind shall be selected from nine persons nominated by the Union

itself. The powers of the Chairmain, the Administrative Committee and other executive organs are established under Article 7.

Art. 3. For the purpose of carrying out the responsibilities entrusted to it, the Movement for the Blind shall receive an annual sum of 4,200 million lire. This sum shall be included in the budget of the Ministry of the Interior as from the beginning of the financial year 1954-55.

Art. 4. A pension for life shall be approved for persons suffering from congenital or contracted blindness, who are unable to assume profitable employment and are without the necessary means of support, the obligations contained in Article 433 and following of the Civil Code remaining in force. The National Movement for the Blind shall be responsible for payment of this monthly pension, which shall be of a minimum of 10,000 lire and a maximum of 14,000 lire, according to the requirements contained in Article 7. This pension shall be paid to persons who have reached the age of eighteen years and who are either completely blind or whose sight is impaired to a minimum of 90 % (ninety percent) or normal.

Art. 7. Approval of the regulations governing the administration of the National Movement for the Blind, and all other norms necessary to the execution and application of this present law, shall be published within a period of six months from the coming into force of this law, under a decree signed by the President of the Republic and issued by the Prime Minister, in agreement with the Minister of the Interior, the Minister of Labour and Social Security and the Minister of the Treasury, after the opinions of the Cabinet and the Council of State shall have been heard. The Statute of the Movement shall also be approved within the same period.

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« BOYS' TOWNS » IN ITALY

CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS ASSISTANCE TO MINORS

The second World War, which raged for long years, had serious consequences on many thousands of young boys who found themselves deprived of any form of moral or material support. Minors accustomed to unlimited freedom, experts in every method which would procure them an easy form of living, they formed a mass which existed on the boundaries of society. The problem was to bring them back to the centre of this same society and teach them the principles of good citizenships and productive living.

It was because of this that the more traditional, but still valuable, forms of assistance, such as homes and institutes, were flanked with a new undertaking which took the form of special communities for minors. These communities later assumed the name of « villages », « republics » or « towns » and their objective was to house those minors whose lives were led principally in the streets and to offer them education and a strong moral upbringing (1).

Experts who studied this idea came to the conclusion that greater success would be obtained through launching an educational system which correctly considered the undisciplined moral and material state into which the boys had fallen. This led to the idea of *self-government* which meant combatting unlimited freedom with the principle of liberty controlled by responsibility, disloyalty with the understanding of the given word, promoting confidence in educators and companions, defeating irresponsibility through explaining the advantages of accepting certain responsibilities and contrasting dishonesty with honesty. In other words, such a form of « self-government » would reflect on the satisfactory progress of the community and would appeal to the instincts of the boys themselves. It would also permit the staff of the community much greater freedom in imposing those

(1) See also: *National Association for the Protection of Children* - « Italian Affairs », Vol. VIII, No. 1, pp. 2459 - 2462.

principles which would prepare satisfactory new elements for their rightful place in society.

The experiment called for the creation of a particular psychological atmosphere in which the boys could be assured of the understanding of others and in which they would meet qualified persons in whom they could place their trust. Every attempt, in fact, has been made to ensure that they are themselves able to discover many natural laws of daily life, and so describe them to their companions after any related problems have been thoroughly discussed and understood.

Each boy — belonging to an organized group often composed according to age and professional tendencies — should feel himself closely associated with the collective good and pledged to a struggle to promote common advantages.

Each of the communities may be said to represent a complete society in miniature. The boys are given the opportunity of selecting their own mayor and councillors, organizing labour, educational facilities and cleaning, a banking organization, a shop, restaurant, etc., electing a judge or group of judges able to punish those who transgress regulations, and generally setting up the necessary administrative services.

Although it is not claimed that the idea of a « Boys' Town » (or Republic or Village) has provided a radical solution to the educational and moral problems which arose during the immediate post-war, it has proved to be an excellent means of curing many of the ills which arose after the second world-war.

Table 1 — REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF « BOYS' TOWNS ».

REGION	No. of Boys' Towns	No. of Minors			No. of Minors per 1,000 inhab. (a)
		Up to 12 yrs.	Over 12 yrs.	Total	
Piedmont.....	4	136	263	399	10.92
Lombardy	2	37	86	123	1.80
Trentino-Alto Adige	1	7	31	38	5.01
Veneto	1	2	20	22	0.56
Friuli-Venezia Giulia	2	85	488	573	61.02
Liguria	2	520	—	520	32.14
Emilia & Romagna	4	72	282	354	9.81
Tuscany	9	119	335	454	14.03
Marches	4	90	164	254	18.47
Lazio	3	37	309	346	9.69
Campania	3	256	489	745	16.28
Apulia	6	246	416	662	19.54
Calabria	1	51	63	114	5.35
Sicily	7	622	803	1,417	30.26
Sardinia	3	95	172	267	19.55
ITALY ...	52	2,375	3,921	6,296	13.80

(a) Calculations have been made according to number of person resident in each region at December 31, 1955.

Other movements with the same objectives as the « Boys' Town » organization have followed the principle of settling the boys among foster parents who assume responsibility for their training.

However, returning to the system of special communities for minors, it is an accepted fact that Italy, by using such forms, has saved many thousands of boys who now have an opportunity of taking their place in society with dignity and serenity.

At the present moment, 52 of these communities are operating in Italy, housing 6,296 boys and adolescents of over six years of age. Approximately one milliard lire are spent every year on their maintenance and education.

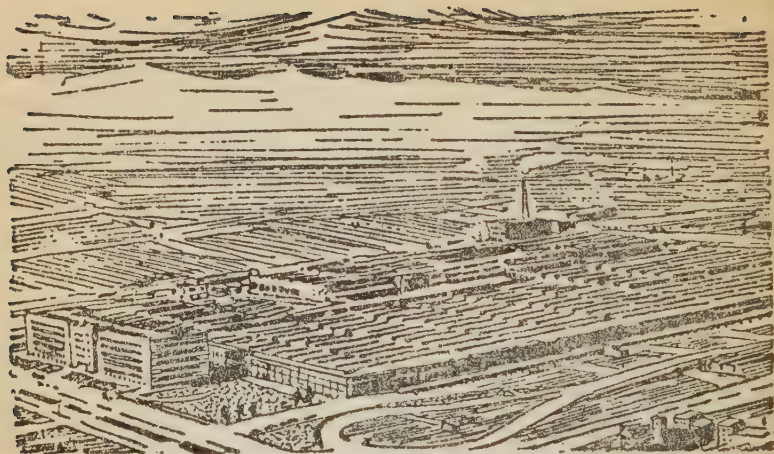
Territorial distribution of these « Boys' Towns » appears somewhat irregular, but this fact is fully justified when it is realized that this work of moral and material rehabilitation is the result of the tenacity and courage of individuals who have defied every type of obstacle to further their intent. But such irregularity in territorial distribution becomes much less apparent if the average number of elements assisted is calculated according the more embracing geographical areas of North, South, Central and Insular Italy.

Table 2 - DISTRIBUTION OF « BOYS' TOWNS » ACCORDING TO GEOGRAPHICAL DIVISION

REGIONS	No. of Boys Towns	No. of Minors.			Resident Population at 31-12-55 (a)	Minors Assisted per 1,000 inhab.
		Up to 12 yrs.	Over 12 yrs.	Total		
North Italy (b) (Piedmont-Lombardy - Trentino-Alto Adige - Veneto-Friuli - Liguria - Emilia)	16	859	1,170	2,029	21,297,999	9.52
Central Italy (b) (Tuscany - Marches - Lazio)	16	246	808	1,054	8,176,842	12.99
South Italy (b) (Campania - Apulia - Calabria)	10	553	968	1,521	10,088,827	15.07
Insular Italy	10	717	975	1,684	6,046,734	27.84
Total...	52	2,375	3,921	6,288	45,610,402	13.80

(a) Istat (Istituto Italiano di Statistica) - 1956 Statistical report. - (b) Excluding Regions without « Boys' Towns » and similar Institutes.

This geographical grouping reveals that the number of minors housed in these « Boys' Towns » is much greater in the southern areas. This means that the benefits offered function in direct relation to the economic status of the zones concerned, as shown in Table 2. The last column of this chart shows the increase in the number of minors receiving assistance per 1,000 inhabitants.



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Marriage Statistics

VARIATIONS OVER THE PERIOD 1955-57

According to information issued by the Central Institute of Statistics (*Istituto Centrale di Statistica*) there has been no variation in marriage statistics over the last few years, the figures remaining at 7.3 to 7.5 per 1,000 inhabitants. This is slightly higher than the preceding period which had a registered index of 7.1. On the other hand, the rise which started in 1954 and continued through 1955 (1) reaching a figure of 7.5 in the latter year, gradually showed signs of contraction and then proceeded to drop (Table 1).

Table 1 — MARRIAGES CELEBRATED IN ITALY FROM 1954 TO 1957

Y E A R	M a r r i a g e s		Monthly average
	Number	per 1,000 inhabs.	
1954	359,911	7.4	29,993
1955	366,718	7.5	30,560
1956	362,945	7.4	30,245
1957	363,267	7.3	30,272

Table 2 illustrates the number of marriages celebrated in Italy from 1955 to 1957, according to regional distribution and should be studied with Table 3 in order to obtain a more precise picture. Comparison of absolute figures may lead to errors which can only be eliminated through examination of relative values. Umbria heads the list in regional distribution, but the figures quoted are mainly due to the widespread habit of celebrating marriage at Assisi. A comparison between 1956 and 1957 shows a drop in marriages in the southern regions (with the exception of Campania). Major percentage drops may be noted for Basilicata (8.5 to 7.3), while marked decreases in absolute figures relate to Lazio, Apulia and Campania. This is coun-

(1) See: *The Increase in Marriages* — « Italian Affairs » Vol. III, No. 5, pp. 521-523.

teracted by an increase in the number of marriages celebrated in Lombardy (49,973 in 1957), Campania with 37, 603 and Veneto with 31,724 (1).

Table 2 - MARRIAGES CELEBRATED IN 1955, 1956 AND 1957

REGION	Years			Difference between 1957 and 1956
	1955	1956	1957	
Piedmont	24,544	24,524	24,643	+ 119
Val d'Aosta	628	657	673	+ 16
Lombardy	48,377	49,083	49,973	+ 890
Trentino-Alto Adige	4,967	4,951	5,243	+ 292
Veneto	30,605	30,960	31,724	+ 764
Friuli-Venezia Giulia	6,175	6,310	8,403	+ 93
Trieste	2,492	2,000		
Liguria	10,243	10,699	11,021	+ 322
Emilia-Romagna	28,207	28,158	27,759	- 399
Tuscany	22,756	22,690	23,254	+ 564
Umbria	6,897	6,943	6,818	- 125
Marches	11,048	11,083	10,876	- 307
Lazio	27,404	25,601	26,226	+ 625
Abruzzi and Molise	13,925	13,531	12,331	- 1,200
Campania	37,230	36,487	37,603	+ 1,116
Apulia	25,067	23,890	24,330	+ 440
Basilicata	5,528	4,941	4,783	- 158
Calabria	16,556	16,198	15,281	- 917
Sicily	35,789	35,737	34,516	- 1,221
Sardinia	8,318	8,402	8,510	+ 108
ITALY ...	366,756	362,945	363,967	+ 1,022

Table 3 - MARRIAGES PER 1,000 INHABITANTS DURING 1955-1957

REGION	Years			REGION	Years		
	1955	1956	1957		1955	1956	1957
Piedmont	6.8	6.7	6.7	Marches	8.0	8.1	7.9
Val d'Aosta	6.4	6.7	6.8	Lazio	7.7	7.1	7.2
Lombardy	7.1	7.2	7.2	Abruzzi and Molise	8.2	7.9	7.3
Trentino-Alto Adige	6.6	6.5	6.8	Campania	8.2	7.9	8.1
Veneto	7.8	7.9	8.1	Apulia	7.4	7.0	7.1
Friuli-Venezia Giulia	6.6	6.7	6.7	Basilicata	8.5	7.5	7.3
Trieste	8.3	6.5	—	Calabria	7.8	7.6	7.1
Liguria	6.4	6.6	6.7	Sicily	7.7	7.6	7.3
Emilia-Romagna	7.8	7.8	7.6	Sardinia	6.1	6.1	6.1
Tuscany	7.1	7.0	7.1				
Umbria	8.4	8.5	8.3	ITALY ...	7.5	7.4	7.3

There now appears to be a tendency for couples to marry at an earlier age. A national survey taken in 1953 showed the average male age to be 28.65 years. This dropped to 28.58 in 1954 and to 28.54 in 1955, the last year in which definite data were obtained. The same thing is apparent for women: the average of 24.98 years registered in 1953 dropped to 24.93 in 1954 and to 24.88 in 1955.

(1) See: *Italian Vital Statistics* - « Italian Affairs » Vol. VI, No. 6, pp. 1959-1960

STATE MONOPOLIES

DURING THE 1956-57 FINANCIAL YEAR

During the financial year 1956-57, the State monopolies once again increased their contributions to the Exchequer. The figure of lire 346,209,956,671 paid to the State in 1955-56 rose to 369,276,396,604 lire in 1956-57, a difference of 23,066,439,933 lire, equal to 6.66 %.

The four sectors comprising the State monopolies (tobacco, salt, quinine and cigarette papers and packets) realized a total income of 462,235,921,459 lire, this being 28,051,467,166 lire more (equal to 6.46 %) than the figure of 434,184,454,293 lire registered for the year 1955-56.

Tobacco

The greater part of the income derived from the State monopolies springs from the sale of tobacco which is the most important of the four mentioned above (1).

In Italy, the growing and processing of tobacco presents the following picture: 48,962 hectares (1 ha. = 2.5 acres) are used for crops (7,564 hectares under public ownership and 41,398 hectares under special concession) and produce 71,189,354 kgs (10,959,867 kgs from land under public ownership and 60,229,487 kgs from land under special concession) with a yield of 1,453.97 kgs per hectare (1,448.95 kgs from land under public ownership and 1,454.89 kgs from land under special concession). The use of exotic tobaccos in the preparation of finished products has also risen, increasing from 8,960,680 kgs registered for the preceding financial year to 10,801,996 kgs for 1956-57. This has also been accompanied by an expansion in the export of raw tobacco, which

(1) See also: *Tobacco in the 1955-1956 Financial Year* - « Italian Affairs », vol. VI, No. 5, pp. 1905-1908.

rose from 10,256,284 kgs to 15,575,762 kgs, equal to 51.87 % against 9.96 % for imports (Table I).

Cigarettes are naturally the foremost product of the State Tobacco Monopoly, and the plants at Milan, Naples, Modena, Lucca and Turin led the production schedule for the financial year under discussion.

An analysis of the various groups of products manufactured will give a more accurate picture of the situation.

Increases in the manufacture of various types of *snuff* depended mostly on the need to build up stockpiles of certain qualities, which had been out of production for some time. Drops in *pipe tobacco* are mainly to be seen in *Nazionali*, *Spuntature*, « 1st Quality Strong » and « 2nd Common », while other qualities have increased their sales. The constant contraction in *cigars* and *cheroots* has resulted in a reduction in their manufacture. Production of *toscano* cigars has been lowered by 7.17 %, although certain other grades (*Cavour*, *Brenta* and *Sella*) have shown better sales.

Table I - PRODUCTION OF TOBACCO AND DERIVATIVES

P R O D U C T	Financial Year		Increase or decrease	
	1956-57 kgs.	1955-56 kgs.	Absolute kgs.	%
Snuff	549,900	542,360	+ 7,540	+ 1.39
Pipe tobacco	5,462,695	5,574,479	— 111,784	— 2.01
Cigars & cheroots	1,838,060	1,929,596	— 91,536	— 4.74
Cigarettes	44,180,703	41,321,863	+ 2,858,840	+ 6.92
<i>Total snuff & tobacco...</i>	52,031,358	49,368,298	+ 2,663,060	+ 5.39
Derivatives	122,159	97,423	+ 24,736	+ 25.39
<i>General total...</i>	52,153,517	49,465,721	+ 2,687,796	+ 5.43

Cigarettes are the main product of the Tobacco Monopoly representing 84.91 % of the total products manufactured. In 1956-57, production of cigarettes (see Table I) reached 44,180,703 kgs, almost half of which was manufactured in factories at Milan, Naples, Modena, Chiaravalle and Bologna. As has been the case over many years, the most popular brand of cigarette proved to be *Nazionale Esportazione* (National Export), the production figure of which (20,707,308 kgs) represented 46.87 % of the total. If the *Nazionale Esportazione Super* be added (this is a cigarette which has more or less the same characteristics but contains a better quality mixture), the figure rises to 21,736,654 kgs, equal to 49.2 % of the total. Of other popular brands, there was a strong rise in *Aurora* with 683,307 kgs produced in 1956-57. Among the better quality cigarettes *Edelweiss Filter*

and *Serraglio* appear to be very popular and there has been a much higher demand for *Stop King Size*, production figures for which totalled 600,000 kgs in 1956-57. Filter cigarettes are growing in popularity and 844,432 kgs were produced during the financial year under examination. The chief brands are *Edelweiss Filter*, *Giubek Filter* and (December, 1956) *Stop King Size Filter*. It is obvious that the State Tobacco Monopoly has concentrated on the manufacture of cigarettes, improving tobacco mixtures, modernizing machinery, building new plants and introducing new scientific methods which will permit a higher quality product and lead to reductions in costs.

An important decision taken during 1956-57 concerned the discount allowed retailers of national tobacco products. This was increased from 5.6 % to 6 %, the charge on higher quality products being limited to 1 %. Such a provision has meant that the State has had to bear a loss of 2,785,523,702 lire.

Distribution of tobacco products is in the hands of 27 main warehouses, which store the products when these are delivered from the factory. The products are then passed to 21 main sales departments, 41 local sales departments and 556 retail depots directly controlled by the Monopoly.

Income received from sales of tobacco at normal prices, during 1956-1957, totalled 439,778,786,332 lire. Of this sum, 82,684,029,679 lire were paid to the Tobacco Monopoly, 324,488,325,939 lire to the State (fiscal dues), 6,247,792,777 lire to the Region of Sardinia and 26,358,637,937 to retailers. In all, the Tobacco Monopoly contributed 330,736,118,716 lire to the Exchequer during 1956-57.

The following table shows sales figures for processed tobaccos (amount sold and quota paid to the State).

GROUP OF PRODUCT	Quantity Sold kgs.	Quota State Paid (lire)
Snauff	503,861,700	706,912,497
Pipe tobacco	5,097,355,945	16,592,787,167
Cigars	1,630,895,959	9,516,972,887
Cheroots	138,630,947	923,763,470
Cigarettes	42,657,849,312	302,995,682,695
<i>Total...</i>	50,028,594,764	330,736,118,716

Salt

During 1956-57, the Salt Monopoly concentrated on increasing its productive output, modernizing plant and premises and reducing costs. Total expenditure on all this was estimated to be 1.4 milliard lire.

As Table II shows, salt production during the period in question, although higher than that registered during the four year period, is

still approximately 3.68 % below the level reached during the previous four year period.

Production of salt from sea water during 1956-57 was approximately 15.7 % higher than the figure for 1955-56, but technical difficulties entailed in mining of rock salt resulted in a drop of 6.65 %. Salt deposits obtained through evaporation by artificial heat (Volterra) showed an increase of 2.96 %. Foreign purchases of salt totalled 127,391 quintals, a drop of 112,230 quintals in relation to the preceding financial year.

Table II - SALT PRODUCTION
(thousand quintals)

TYPE OF SALT	1953-54	1954-55	1955-56	1956-57	Average for period 1949-50, 1952-53
Sea salt	4,346.0	4,536.6	4,176.3	4,831.8	5,031.8
Rock salt	130.8	90.1	109.1	102.3	109.8
Artificial evaporation	175.2	164.5	165.6	170.5	151.8
Total...	4,652.0	4,791.2	4,451.0	5,104.6	5,293.4

Sales in Italy, which reached a record level in the previous financial year, showed a further rise of 3.19 %, mostly due to improvement to the industry and an improved product. Revenue amounted to 9,576,618,283 lire, this being an increase of 10.24 % over the 1955-56 financial year. This sum is made up as follows: 8.6 milliard lire from direct sales, 881.8 million lire from various sources, and 120 million lire received from a special Treasury Fund. Production costs totalled 8.3 milliard lire (an increase of 8.65 % over 1955-56), leaving a net profit of 977,360,912 lire, an increase of 11.54 % mostly due to higher retail prices.

Quinine

During 1956-57, production of quinine totalled 6,011,412 kgs, of which 3,449,554 kgs refer to salts and 2,561,858 to tablets. 3,393,421 kgs of conditioned salts and 2,046,304 kgs of conditioned tablets.

Compared to the previous year, products containing quinine salts dropped by 17,835,503 kgs, while production of tablet forms decreased by 1,149,927 kgs.

During the financial year 1956-57, 3,213,277 kgs of normal price products were sold, against 4,120,596 kgs during the preceding period. Products sold under a special tariff totalled 8,649,314 kgs, against 2,104,555 kgs for 1955-56. The marked drop in the use of quinine products for therapeutic purposes is a new confirmation that malaria

becoming less and less dangerous, particularly in relation to the regions of Apulia, Sicily and Sardinia. The sharp rise in the sales of quinine salts for industrial purposes is due to the fact that many companies, which previously imported such salts, are now turning to local production.

Revenue from sales amounted to 116,272,752 lire, with 13,037,961 lire for monopoly rights, and 165,079 lire representing reimbursements and various, making a total of 129,475,792 lire. Costs reached lire 148,608,881, resulting in a net loss of 19,133,089 lire, against a profit of 7,805,836 lire registered for the preceding period.

Cigarette Papers and Packages

During 1956-57, the plant administered by the State Monopoly at the Volterra salt pans manufactured 298,557 boxes of gummed cigarette papers, this being an increase of 31.26 % over figures for the preceding year. During the same period, this plant purchased 200,000 boxes of gummed cigarette papers from private manufacturers, against 150,000 during the previous financial year. Sales have shown a slight contraction.

Table III - CIGARETTE PAPERS AND PACKAGES

PRODUCT SOLD	1956-57 Boxes or packs	1955-56 Boxes or packs	Variation Boxes or packs
<i>Normal tariff:</i>			
Monopolio type paper	416,958	427,500	— 10,542
Marca type paper	1,305,698	1,306,956	— 1,258
Monopolio	473	491	— 18
With cork tip	167	191	— 24
With filter tip	72,351	65,506	+ 6,845
	1,795,647	1,800,644	— 4,997
<i>Special tariff for Trieste:</i>			
Monopolio type paper	20	—	+ 20
Marca type	5,217	5,596	— 379
With cork tip	2,593	2,151	+ 442
	7,830	7,747	+ 83
<i>Total...</i>	1,803,447	1,808,391	— 4,914

Revenue from sales of products amount to 2,087,621,088 lire, a drop of 0.38 % in income from normal sales and 2.74 % in special tariffs adopted for the territory of Trieste. General income, however, showed an increase of 92.67 %. Production costs were 1,105,304,172 lire, thus showing a net profit of 982,316,916 lire which, in comparison to the preceding financial period, shows an oscillation of 4.23 % due to a drop in sales and higher production costs.

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PUBLIC RELATIONS IN ITALY

Origins and Development. Future Prospects

The history of Public Relations, considered as a science to be organically applied to social and economic life, is still very recent. As far as Italy is concerned, it originated in 1952, the year in which a group of journalists and publicists decided to found the *Istituto per le Pubbliche Relazioni* (Institute of Public Relations) in Milan. Its purpose was, as the name implies, to encourage the use of Public Relations throughout Italy. The profession of Public Relations Officer and a definite Public Relations policy, dates back to 1954, to the foundation of the *Associazione Italiana per le Relazioni Pubbliche* AIRP (1).

The founders of the AIRP, all of whom had several years of experience in press and information services and public relations under the E.R.P., obtaining first hand information about American methods and the Italian market, decided that it would be interesting to study the possibilities of applying the same scientific principles of communication and information. They felt that there was a very definite lack of such undertakings in Italy and that the country would benefit from the adaptation of American methods to the economic, social and psychological standards of the Italians themselves.

In 1955, a third organization, *Società per l'Incremento delle Relazioni Pubbliche in Italia* (The Institute for the Development of Public Relations in Italy) was founded in Naples by a restricted group of experts in Public Relations.

Chief among Public Relations activities undertaken in Italy are:

Courses – Debates – Seminars: 1956. Short course in Public Relations with 25 participants and 13 graduates – Milan (March 5-9).

(1) AIRP was brought into being under the chairmanship of Ivan Matteo Lombardo, who was succeeded by Giuseppe Brusasca, Prof. Umberto Baldini. The current Chairman is Senator Giuseppe Caron. Mr. Guido de Rossi del Lion Nero is Secretary General.

Rome – Debate on Public Relations (March 22) with approximately 200 delegates. Milan – Public Relations Day at Milan Fair, organized by the Institute of Labour Studies (April 16) with approximately 150 delegates. Rome – «follow-up course» for students attending Milan Centre (May 4-5) attended by 15 pupils. Rome – Information Course by INAIL (June 15-July 6) with 35 students. Palermo – Information Course (June 18-23) with 48 students. Catania – Information Course (November 12-17) with 38 students.

1957. Palermo – Public Relations Day at the Mediterranean Fair (June 6). Perugia – Technical course for officials of the Inspector's Office of Agrarian Science at the Casalina Foundation (September 2-21). Arezzo – Public Relations course organized by the Centre for Productivity and the Inspector's Office of Agrarian Science (November 18-26) with 46 students.

Lectures: Istituto Agrario Femminile, Monza (1957-58); Istituto di Economia Domestica «Alfieri-Cavour», Florence (1957-58); Ispettorati Agrari di Bologna (January 15, 1958), Milan (January 19), Ravenna (January 29, 1958), Ancona (March 28, 1958); Naples University (February 1957); Assisi Journalists Convention (January 11-13, 1958); American Chamber of Commerce, Bologna (January 16, 1958); SIPRI, Naples (1958), Institute for New Professions, Turin (1958), IPSOA (1958), Ravenna Rotary Club (1958), Ente Maremma (1958), Bologna Press Club (1958), Verona Centre for Productivity (1958) and the Azienda Comunale Navigazione, Venice (1958).

AIRP set up six regional centres at Palermo, Bologna, Genoa, Turin, Milan, Trieste and 4 overseas delegations in Belgium-Luxembourg, Switzerland, the United States and France. Today, the association has over four hundred members and promoters.

The *Centro Studi per le Relazioni Pubbliche* (Study Centre for Public Relations) was created in 1957 and became responsible for the promotion and organization of post-graduate courses in Rome and Milan. These courses last one year and have now been extended to include Turin. Other courses were also organized in Naples for the training of experts in Public Relations, most of them being held at the *Scuola di perfezionamento di organizzazione aziendale* (School of Advanced Training in Industrial Management). Further lectures and instruction were also made available at Venice, Padua, Belluno, Verona, Arezzo, Florence and Piacenza. Attendance totalled 420 and included a high percentage of professional categories, State officials and public and private industrial and commercial managers. The training program-

me is still in a stage of development and current planning includes seminars for Civil Servants and staffs of public and private enterprise.

In April, 1956, the *Ispettorato Compartimentale Agrario* of Veneto organized the first convention on the « Application of Public Relations to Agriculture » at Venice. This convention was the first of its kind and was primarily intended to prepare officials of the Ministry of Agriculture in Public Relations applied to agriculture (technical assistance, press and publicity). A congress of this kind had been solicited earlier by the « National Committee for Productivity »² and the O.E.E.C. readily extended its patronage.

Under the initial programme, an International Convention on Public Relations was promoted at Stresa in 1956 and was attended by 205 delegates representing 6 nations. In June, 1957, a « National Study Convention on Public Relations » was organized in Rome. The Stresa convention, which marked the first direct contact between Italian Public Relations' circles and those of other countries, heralded this nation's entry to the international scene and, in September 1957, AIRP was admitted to the « International Public Relations Association » (IPRA).

National Public Relations organizations of the six member states of « little Europe » met in Luxembourg in 1958 to discuss the foundation of a European Committee under the auspices of CECA. This committee has already begun operations, its main objectives being the promotion of closer relations between the public of the six states and the encouragement of a public relations profession within Europe.

Meanwhile, the spreading of the principles and methods of public relations in Italy was methodically pursued through the organization of lectures and meetings in all the principal cities, the introduction of scholarships under the « International Pro-Deo University » of Milan and Rome, the publication of a magazine *Relazioni Pubbliche*, a weekly periodical *Il Pubblico* and, finally, a series of manuals and essays.

On a practical basis, AIRP has started a special course at Vicenza – with the collaboration of the local Prefect's Department – which explains the close relationship between theoretical and practical methods in public relations. The local Council offices at Vicenza (the Prefect's Department and the Commune) opened a Public Relations' Department which immediately brought about some excellent results.

Vicenza's example was followed by the councils of Amalfi and Viareggio while Rome circles created a Study Committee for the task of

setting up a Public Relations Department to operate with the Town Council and interest itself in local agricultural and social welfare questions. This Committee rapidly expanded, following the interest of all the ministries and many organizations and associations directly concerned with the above problems, and various working sessions were formed. In all, one hundred persons set themselves to work at a Public Relations programme. As a consequence, a Public Relations department has already been opened in several ministries and some of the larger insurance companies, such as INADEL. In 1955, AIRP created a National Union of Public Relations Officers to embrace all persons working in this field.

Another two Public Relations organizations (IPR of Milan and SIPRI of Naples), have also made a valuable contribution towards the spreading and teaching of new methods and theories, although they operate on a less wide scale than AIRP. At the present moment, all three organizations are negotiating on the possibility of founding a National Federation of Public Relations Associations in Italy.



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Merchant Seamen

Movement and Personnel Organization

Following the increases noted during the last quarter of 1952, when employment registers for the Merchant Navy were reopened as a result of a Decree of August 11, 1952, the situation gradually assumed a normal level during the subsequent years. During 1957, there was an increase of 2,563 new applicants over the figure registered for the preceding year, equal to 22.06 %. Comparing data for the two succes-

Table I - REGISTRATION OF NEW PERSONNEL FOR THE MERCHANT NAVY
1956 and 1957

TRAINING CENTRES	Years		TRAINING CENTRES	Years	
	1956	1957		1956	1957
Imperia	105	124	Bari	400	346
Savona	261	362	Molfetta	264	502
Genoa	1,416	1,213	Manfredonia	89	78
La Spezia	319	356	Pescara	324	520
Viareggio	184	380	Ancona	293	456
Leghorn	162	253	Rimini	97	148
Porto Santo Stefano	148	141	Ravenna	53	98
Portoferraio	53	68	Chioggia	331	246
Civitavecchia	60	35	Venice	701	363
Rome	123	274	Monfalcone	256	320
Gaeta	126	547	Trieste	422	597
Naples	867	1,114	Cagliari	119	169
Torre del Greco	678	676	Olbia	274	185
Castellammare di Stabia	256	293	Messina	261	291
Salerno	234	174	Catania	391	413
Vibo Valentia Marina	82	219	Syracuse	203	492
Reggio Calabria	267	394	Porto Empedocle	397	745
Crotone	43	93	Trapani	363	369
Taranto	153	186	Palermo	457	533
Brindisi	382	404			
			Totals...	11,614	14,177

sive years, it will be found that the situation in two of Italy's main ports, Genoa and Naples, was exactly the opposite. At the former, the number of new elements dropped from 1,416 in 1956 to 1,213 in 1957, while the latter showed a rise from 867 in 1956 to 1,114 in 1957.

Table I shows increases at Porto Empedocle (from 397 to 745), Syracuse (from 203 to 492) and Molfetta (from 264 to 502). A heavy drop is to be noted at Venice (from 701 to 363).

It will be noted, in Table II, that the total is constantly increasing, but this is mostly due to rises in the number of ordinary crew members since, between 1955 and 1957, there has been a steady decline in the number of officers. During the latter year, in fact, there was an average reduction of 67 officers per month, against a monthly increase of 777 for other personnel.

Table II - REGISTRATION AND TURNOVER OF SEAMEN
(FROM 1953 TO DECEMBER 31)

CATEGORY	1953	1954	1955	1956 (a)	1957 (a)
Merchant Navy officers	3,621	4,228	4,474	4,254	3,452
Crew members	66,791	76,795	79,345	82,249	91,581
<i>Total</i> ...	70,412	81,023	83,819	86,503	95,003

(a) Including personnel registered at Augusta (from Nov. 15, 1956), following Decree of June 23, 1956

Table III shows those ports which have the greatest number of registered seamen (approximately 94.2 % of all registered merchant seamen). Among them, Genoa accounts for 41.1 % of the total and Naples 23.6%. The number of *personnel actually embarked* (both officers and crew members) increased from 29,180 units in 1953 to 30,911 in 1954, 33,640 in 1955, 39,309 in 1956 and 40,491 in 1957.

Table III - PORTS WITH MAJOR NUMBER OF PERSONNEL SERVING ON
ROTATION BASIS (1957)

P O R T S	Officers	Crew members	Total	Variations against 1956	
				No.	%
Savona	30	3,114	3,144	+	243
La Spezia	120	3,073	3,193	+	666
Genoa	1,437	37,686	39,123	+	2,875
Leghorn	18	1,135	1,153	+	226
Naples	1,003	21,449	22,452	+	883
Bari	52	1,281	1,333	+	395
Ancona	24	1,015	1,039	+	149
Venice	270	5,192	5,462	+	296
Trieste	79	5,479	5,558	+	353
Messina	62	1,301	1,363	+	398
Palermo	137	5,646	5,783	+	1,805

Although the higher percentage refers to merchant navy officers, that referring to crew members has also grown. Comparing data relative to seamen already embarked and those awaiting a ship, it will be found that the ratio between the former and the latter was 41.4 % in 1953, 38.1 % in 1954, 40.1 % in 1955, 45.4 % in 1956 and 42.6 % in 1957.

Water Supply Services

SOURCES, STRUCTURE AND OPERATION

The supply of water to local districts is a problem which has the constant attention of the competent authorities who follow a careful, topographical plan when considering new measures which have to be taken, especially in the interests of hygiene.

Table 1 - REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY - GENERAL SITUATION

REGION	% of Communes without mains	Inhabited areas								New projects	
		Total	With Mains		Without Mains			With insufficient water	Lengthening of network	New water mains	
			towns	%	Springs	Wells	Mixed				
Piedmont.....	42.7	2,973	1,436	48.3	260	784	493	1,163	65	11	
Valle d'Aosta.....	12.3	192	152	79.2	29	—	11	69	17	3	
Lombardy.....	38.1	3,689	1,975	53.5	138	1,377	199	1,121	104	15	
Trentino-Alto Adige.....	9.1	879	701	79.7	131	9	38	319	55	1	
Veneto.....	52.8	2,281	958	42.0	118	989	216	973	49	9	
Friuli-Venezia Giulia.....	42.2	901	481	53.4	51	279	90	313	27	35	
Liguria.....	13.0	950	574	60.4	225	51	100	424	25	4	
Emilia-Romagna.....	29.9	2,271	834	36.7	276	912	249	1,112	58	47	
Tuscany.....	5.7	2,152	1,337	62.1	322	320	173	1,240	84	9	
Umbria.....	7.7	728	434	59.6	152	112	30	488	20	1	
Marches.....	5.3	984	682	69.3	159	99	44	639	39	24	
Lazio.....	9.6	844	637	75.5	96	61	150	613	41	22	
Abruzzi-Molise.....	17.7	984	700	71.1	142	80	62	716	12	20	
Campania.....	27.1	1,206	780	64.7	134	148	144	839	36	27	
Apulia.....	2.0	356	325	91.3	4	9	18	126	10	1	
Basilicata.....	0.8	167	148	88.6	13	3	3	112	13	—	
Calabria.....	18.0	840	586	69.8	187	38	29	696	49	9	
Sicily.....	18.4	830	479	57.7	152	64	135	581	160	44	
Sardinia.....	24.0	489	313	64.0	71	56	49	311	29	28	
ITALY...	27.5	23,716	13,532	57.1	2,660	5,391	2,133	11,859	893	310	

This present report, which embraces water supplies to Italian communes, concerns drinking water only (or water which the authorities declare to be fit for drinking purposes) and mains laid for collective use.

A recent survey shows that, of the 7,804 communes existing in Italy, 5,656 (72.5 %) are supplied with water carried by mains, while

2,148 (27.5 %) obtain their supplies directly from water sources, wells, springs, etc. The latter includes communes which may be grouped as follows: up to 1,000 inhabitants - 431; from 1,000 to 3,000 inhabitants - 983; from 3,000 to 5,000 - 397; from 5,000 to 10,000 inhabitants - 271; over 10,000 - 66.

Examining each region, the percentage of communes with mains supplies oscillates between 90.4 % and 99.2 % for Lazio, Trentino, Alto Adige, Umbria, Tuscany, Marches, Apulia, Basilicata; from 81.4 % to 87.7 % for Sicily, Calabria, Abruzzi and Molise, Liguria and Valle d'Aosta; from 70.1 % to 76.0 % for Emilia-Romagna, Campania and Sardinia, and from 47.2 % to 61.9 % for Lombardy, Piedmont, Friuli-Venezia Giulia and Veneto.

Considering the question of population, it will be found that of the 23,716 inhabited centres (1), 13,532 (57.1 %) are served by water mains and 10,184 (42.9 %) by water which is supplied directly from the source (2,660), wells (5,391) or from wells, springs, etc. (2,133). Water supplies for 11,859 inhabited centres are considered insufficient since the normal requirements of the population for a period of one year cannot be guaranteed.

Table 2 - CAPITAL AND OTHER TOWNS CLASSIFIED PER COMMUNE

CATEGORY OF COMMUNE	Total Centres	Centres with Mains				Centres without Mains			
		Capital Towns	Other Towns	Total		Capital Towns	Other Towns	Total	
				No.	%			No.	%
Inhabited centres	1,347	91	795	886	65.8	—	461	461	34.2
Centres in other communes	22,369	5,449	7,197	12,646	56.5	2,264	7,459	9,723	43.5
<i>Total...</i>	23,716	5,540	7,992	13,532	57.1	2,264	7,920	10,184	42.9
<i>of which:</i>									
up to 1,000 inhabs. ..	530	75	204	279	52.6	2	249	251	47.4
1,000/3,000 inhabs. ..	3,272	553	1,295	1,848	56.5	68	1,356	1,424	43.5
3,001/5,000 inhabs. ..	5,275	1,017	1,841	2,858	54.2	286	2,131	2,417	45.1
5,001/10 000 inhabs. ..	4,570	1,057	1,516	2,573	56.3	425	1,572	1,997	43.7
10,001/30,000 inhabs. ..	6,915	2,021	1,968	3,989	57.7	1,039	1,887	2,926	42.3
over 30,000 inhabs. ..	1,807	726	373	1,099	60.8	444	264	708	39.2

At the time this survey was made, the authorities had started work on 898 projects covering additions and extensions to existing water mains, and 310 new mains to inhabited areas without direct supplies.

(1) The term «inhabited centre» refers to a zone with premises flanking one another, relative public streets and squares with essential public services, the whole forming a locality also used by other persons, who are non-resident, for purposes of business, education, trade, religious worship, etc.

SUPPLY OF DRINKING AND OTHER WATER

Examination of this sector includes data concerning the supply of drinking and non-drinking water, relative industries and allied undertakings. The companies immediately concerned with these services, according to information resulting from the 1951 census, number 1,488 of which 148 are private companies, 275 limited companies and 1,065 corporations (1010 controlled by the Public Authorities and 55 private), here classified according to the number of persons employed;

up to 2 employees - 801 (53.8%); from 51 to 100 empl. - 19 (1.3%);
 from 3 to 5 empl. - 393 (26.4%); from 101 to 500 empl. - 20 (1.3%);
 from 6 to 10 empl. - 137 (9.2%); from 501 to 1,000 empl.
 from 11 to 50 empl. - 116 (7.8%) over 1,000 employees - 2 (0.1%).

1,424 of these water supply companies operate within the boundaries of the Commune, 43 companies within the Province, 10 within the Region and 11 over the whole of Italy.

Table 3 - LOCAL OFFICES AND MOTIVE POWER

R E G I O N	Local Offices	Motive Power hp.	% of total	
			Local Offices	Motive Power
Piedmont	224	18,899	9.2	12.0
Valle d'Aosta	10	239	0.4	0.1
Lombardy	368	41,043	15.1	26.0
Trentino-Alto Adige	115	1,680	4.7	1.1
Veneto	138	9,094	5.7	5.8
Friuli-Venezia Giulia	35	510	1.4	0.3
Trieste	10	8,503	0.4	5.4
Liguria	150	14,772	6.1	9.3
Emilia-Romagna	145	13,404	5.9	8.5
Tuscany	176	12,273	7.2	7.8
Umbria	71	1,655	2.9	1.0
Marches	134	5,682	5.5	3.6
Lazio	154	6,691	6.3	4.2
Abruzzi & Molise	76	650	3.1	0.4
Campania	121	5,783	5.0	3.7
Apulia	81	7,595	3.3	4.8
Basilicata	66	175	2.7	0.1
Calabria	73	267	3.0	0.2
Sicily	187	8,065	7.7	5.1
Sardinia	107	1,000	4.4	0.6
Total ...	2,441	157,980	100 -	100 -

The whole sector comprises 2,441 local offices (2,296 technical and 145 administrative) employing 11,778 persons (see Table 3).

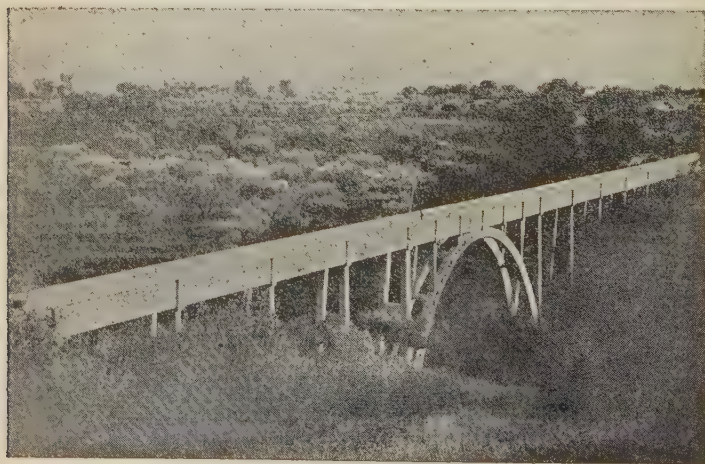
Plant used by the industry generates a motive power of 157,980 hp. Such plant consists of 5,172 electric motors producing 105,733 kW,

electric generators producing 4,740 kW and 341 primary motors producing 20,458 hp. (82 hydraulic motors - 3,775 hp., 19 steam engines - 1,115 hp., 235 internal combustion engines - 15,472 hp. and 5 other types - 96 hp.).

Table 4 - EXPENDITURE FOR PERSONNEL.
(milliard lire)

PERIOD	Expenditure by Management					Deductions from Employees
	Gross Payments		Contributions and Other		Total	
	Wages	Other	Total	Social Security etc.		
1950.....	4,776	421	1,144	1,035	6,341	244
%...	75.3	6.6	18.1	16.3	100	—

Total gross expenditure (Table 4) is accounted for as follows: wages and salaries - 75.3%; various indemnities - 6.6%; contributions and allied expenditure 18.1% (16.3% for social security contributions).



Combined aqueduct and bridge across the Pescara Creek (Pescara)

THE ELECTRICAL INDUSTRY

PLANT, PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION IN 1957. CURRENT DEVELOPMENT AND FUTURE PROGRAMME

The year 1957 witnessed the electrical industry intent on a wide-scale construction programme, which included completion of schemes already put into operation during previous years and commencement of several new hydroelectric and thermoelectric power stations. This, of course, was in keeping with the project adopted at the end of 1956 (1).

At January 1, 1958, *hydroelectric* power stations numbered 2,759 producing 9,939,290 kW, while *thermoelectric* power stations (including geo-thermoelectric stations) totalled 790 with an output of 2,728,755 kW.

During the year in question, 29 new hydroelectric stations were brought into operation (with a total output of 418,130 kW). New thermoelectric stations (with a total output of 105,509 kW) numbered 12. During the first four months of 1958, 8 new hydroelectric stations started functioning with an output of 179,500 kW and a new thermoelectric station (130,000 kW). The 1957 programme also included the opening of several large dams, which brought additional water to the service of the power stations.

The latter included a dam at *Beauregard*, closing the Valgrisanche, which has created a reservoir with a capacity of 70 million cubic metres, equal to 153 million kWh. The dam built at *Malga Bissina* has a capacity of 60 million cubic metres, equal to 180 million kWh, while the dam on the *Maè*, belonging to the Po-Boite-Maè-Vajont system, has a capacity of 9 million cubic metres equal to 13 million kWh.

(1) See also: *The Electricity Industry* - «Italian Affairs», Vol. VI, No. 5, pp. 1893-1896.

The second phase of the building programme for the *Pian Palù* reservoir, in the upper basin of the Noce has also been completed. This reservoir will hold approximately 8 million cubic metres, equal to 13 million kWh.

The total capacity of Italian reservoirs at the end of 1957 was 3,735 million cubic metres, equal to 5,391 million kWh (1).

Plans for increasing the number of power stations has also been accompanied by schemes for improving the present power supply system and the transformation and *distribution* of electrical energy. The system mostly consists of high tension cables (220 kV and 120 — 150 kV) which connect the complicated network running from the Alps to Sicily. Sicily was connected to the mainland at the end of 1956 through the introduction of a special overhead cable running across the Straits of Messina (2).

During 1957, 367 kms of 220 kV cable were brought into service, and 823 kms of 120 — 150 cable, so that, by January 1, 1958, the Italian network consisted of 6,785 kms of 220 kV overhead cable and 18,974 kms of 120 — 150 kV overhead cable, making a total of 25,759 kms.

In 1957, *production* of electrical energy almost reached 43 milliard kWh, a new record, exceeding the 1956 figure by more than 2,133 million kWh. Considering the credit balance resulting from export,

PRODUCTION OF ELECTRICAL ENERGY IN 1957. COMPARISON WITH 1956 (millions of kWh)

ENERGY SOURCE	1957	1956	% Variation
Electrical energy from hydroelectric plants	31,848	31,319	+ 1.69
Electrical energy from thermoelectric plants	9,066	7,495	+ 20.96
Electrical energy from geo-thermo-electric plants...	1,812	1,779	+ 1.86
<i>Total Italian production</i> ...	42,726	40,593	+ 5.26
Imported electrical energy	503	276	+ 82.22
<i>General total</i> ...	43,229	40,869	+ 5.78
Exported electrical energy	43	75	- 42.21
<i>Total energy for consumption in Italy</i> ...	43,186	40,794	+ 5.86

electrical energy for Italian consumption totalled 43,186 million kWh, a rise of 5.86 % over the previous year. The figures shown in the

(1) See also: *The Electrical Supply Industry* - « Italian Affairs », Vol. VIII, No. 1, pp. 2473-2474.

(2) See: *Overhead Cables Carry Electricity Across the Straits of Messina* - « Italian Affairs », Vol. V, No. 6, pp. 1472-1482.

chart illustrate the strong contribution made by the thermoelectric power stations in 1957, following the abnormal heavy rains. Duly considering the type of combustible employed, the 9,066 million kWh registered in 1957 are distributed as follows: 34.9 % (3,159 million) from diesel fed plants, 31.9 % (2,896 million) from coal fed plants and 30.3 % (2,750 million) from methane fuelled plants.

Consumption of electrical energy in 1957 — measured on the basis of supplies to the user and, therefore, exclusive of losses in transformation and distribution — totalled approximately 36,300 million kWh, this being an increase of 5.91 % over 1956. Grouping consumption according to five principal categories, use of electrical energy may be classified as under:

CONSUMPTION OF ENERGY PER CATEGORY

CATEGORY	Million kWh	% of total	% variation on 1956
Civic uses	7,120	19.6	+ 7.24
Industrial	17,690	48.8	+ 5.21
Electrochemical and electrometallurgical	8,350	23.0	+ 7.47
Traction	2,730	7.5	+ 2.25
Agriculture	410	1.1	+ 7.39
<i>Total...</i>	36,300	100.0	+ 5.91

Forecasts on Italy's needs lead to the conclusion that 75 milliard kWh will be required to cover demand in 1965 and 150 milliard in 1975. Exploitation of water sources for hydroelectric purposes (estimated at approximately 55-60 milliard kWh) is reaching its natural limits and, therefore, future production will depend greatly on the possibilities of thermo-electric energy, using solid fuels and nuclear energy. Several projects are already taking shape in the latter field.

The leading commercial electric enterprises have already founded two companies, the *Società Elettronucleare Italiana* — SELNI, (the Italian Electro-Nuclear Company) and the *Società Elettronucleare Nazionale* — SENN, (The National Electro-nuclear Company). SELNI, composed of companies operating in central and north Italy, has taken over planning which was originally in the hands of the « Edisonvolta Company » and currently has the task of building a nuclear thermoelectric plant capable of producing 134,000 kWh. SENN, composed of companies operating in central and south Italy, is planning the building of a plant in southern Italy capable of producing 150,000 kWh. This latter plant has been designed by ENSI — *Energia Nucleare Sud-Italia* (Southern Italy Nuclear Energy Agency) in collaboration with the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

Further planning in this field has been undertaken by AGIP - *Nucleare* which is interested in the construction of a plant able to produce 200,000 kW in the Latina zone (1). This will be operated by the *Società Italiana Meridionale per l'Energia Atomica* - SIMEA (the Southern Italian Agency for Atomic Energy). Again, AGIP - *Nucleare*, in collaboration with an American company and F.I.A.T., is considering the building of a nuclear-thermo-electric station in northern Italy, which will produce 134,000 kW.

The *Società Ricerche e Impianti Nucleari* (The Nuclear Research and Installation Company), in which both FIAT and *Montecatini* are interested, is contemplating the construction of an experimental centre at Saluggia (Vercelli) which will be equipped with a «Swimming Pool» reactor of 5,000 kW for applied research in industry.

The vast sector of peaceful use of atomic energy is leading to the drafting of new and special legislation. Limiting this examination to recent norms, one of the most important was Law No. 19 of February 5, 1957, which authorized appropriations amounting to 3,300 million lire for the *Comitato Nazionale per le Ricerche Nucleari* (National Committee for Nuclear Research), to be used in research and nuclear experiments. The objective is to promote and encourage interest in industrial application of nuclear energy and to provide for an initial experimental reactor as well as furnish operating costs, for the financial year.

During 1957 and in the early part of 1958, three other laws were approved, all of which dealt with international agreements and their application to Italy. The first, No. 876 of September 27, ratified the statute of the «International Agency for Atomic Energy». The second, Law No. 244 of March 13, 1958, ratified an aid agreement between the United States of America and Italy on the peaceful employment of atomic energy. Lastly, a decree issued by the President of the Italian Republic approved an agreement between Great Britain and Italy on the employment of atomic energy.

A further presidential decree of December 13, 1957, No. 1173, concerned the lifting of customs duty on imports of nuclear reactors and on all materials, apparatus, machinery and relative parts, required in the construction and use of reactors which cannot be furnished by the home market, and which are considered essential to study and experiment or to the production of energy or fissionable material.

(1) The construction of the first Italian thermonuclear plant, in collaboration with an English enterprise, began on November 20th, 1958.

CONSUMPTION TAX

REVENUE INCREASES

Consumption tax, now applied in almost all countries with an advanced economic structure, has shown considerable development in Italy over the past few years. It is, of course, a levy on products with a high consumer level and is applied when the finished article leaves the factory or is imported. Benefits to the exchequer have increased with advancement in industrial production rythmn and a simpler assessment system has been introduced, since it is the manufacturer who is compelled to pay the tax involved.

Consumption tax was first practised in Italy in 1864, but it was only after the first World War that it began to assume any importance in relation to the exchequer. Following the second World War, many difficulties were involved in applying such a levy but, with a return to normal conditions, an organic method was soon introduced. The increase in the sums paid to the exchequer is due to a much greater consumption of products subject to this tax, a new tariff and a wider scale of products on which such a levy is due.

Table I - CONSUMPTION TAX. POST-WAR INCREASES
(millions of lire)

FINANCIAL YEAR	Revenue	%	FINANCIAL YEAR	Revenue	%
1947-48	81,214	11.5	1952-53	256,022	15.6
1948-49	127,192	13.0	1953-54	303,259	16.6
1949-50	166,323	15.0	1954-55	354,766	17.4
1950-51	209,855	16.3	1955-56	404,842	17.7
1951-52	235,173	15.6			

In the financial year 1947-48, consumption tax amounted to 81,214 million lire, representing 11.5 % of total revenue. Following this period, there has been a steady rise in both revenue and percentage.

Table II shows revenue obtained from consumption tax and inland customs dues on certain products.

Table II - REVENUE FROM CONSUMPTION TAX AND ADDITIONAL IMPORT DUTY FOR FINANCIAL PERIOD 1947-48 TO 1955-56 (a)
(thousands of lire)

PRODUCT	1947-48	1948-49	1949-50	1950-51	1951-52	1952-53	1953-54	1954-55	1955-56
Spirits	{ C. T. I. D.	{ 10,167,348 310,746	{ 10,511,282 651,424	{ 10,152,941 492,969	{ 12,713,548 498,327	{ 12,619,257 4,540,875	{ 13,749,483 668,237	{ 14,309,360 833,399	{ 16,297,274 1,053,696
Beer	{ C. T. I. D.	{ 2,324,669 36,178	{ 3,486,580 56,038	{ 3,985,640 36,038	{ 4,471,866 70,286	{ 4,940,185 90,992	{ 4,645,426 72,151	{ 6,695,426 93,513	{ 7,174,796 148,926
Coffee substitutes	{ C. T. I. D.	{ 229,905 5,626	{ 310,577 1,476	{ 463,629 86	{ 507,589 697	{ 541,354 16	{ 579,939 3,194	{ 661,124 3,368	{ 721,150 339
Glucose, etc.	{ C. T. I. D.	{ 196,038 37,921	{ 406,001 4,789	{ 507,921 3,845	{ 595,872 4,174	{ 611,326 1,496	{ 710,136 649	{ 812,261 1,313	{ 861,942 1,740
Sugar	{ C. T. I. D.	{ 19,956,368 5,844,996	{ 40,403,624 2,316,778	{ 51,444,273 433,589	{ 53,947,702 141,597	{ 57,720,248 163,497	{ 66,330,465 705,973	{ 65,694,558 1,496,422	{ 70,175,962 1,866,165
Mineral oils	{ C. T. I. D.	{ 33,153,247 10,907,440	{ 68,422,114 7,473,080	{ 95,764,837 8,016,108	{ 114,919,138 8,379,909	{ 134,213,221 6,299,452	{ 171,988,395 5,981,612	{ 213,737,181 6,987,039	{ 245,141,774 5,998,781
Gas, oil liquids	{ C. T. I. D.	{ — —	{ — —	{ — —	{ — —	{ — —	{ — —	{ 2,963,315 357,871	{ 6,550,505 611,347
Benzol	{ C. T. I. D.	{ 17,489 —	{ 235,468 —	{ 22,122 —	{ 11,193 —	{ — —	{ — —	{ — —	{ — —
Seed oil	{ C. T. I. D.	{ 292,464 54,509	{ 1,521,296 119,346	{ 2,295,971 847,819	{ 2,837,360 271,410	{ 3,177,271 539,164	{ 1,191,278 2,457,701	{ 1,352,214 2,712,551	{ 3,168,066 4,482,534
Animal oils and fats	{ C. T. I. D.	{ — —	{ — —	{ — —	{ — —	{ — —	{ — —	{ — —	{ — —
Liquid vegetable oils and fats	{ C. T. I. D.	{ 162,924 2,451,180	{ 177,780 7,346,820	{ 188,848 10,345,845	{ 208,505 11,583,479	{ 233,474 12,613,780	{ 275,268 13,555,521	{ 328,006 16,067,533	{ 3,684,530 17,771,123
Acid fats	{ C. T. I. D.	{ — —	{ — —	{ — —	{ — —	{ — —	{ — —	{ — —	{ — —
Electric energy (f)	{ C. T. I. D.	{ 606,211 239,940	{ 567,928 239,940	{ 782,688 178,017	{ 803,489 142,326	{ 937,762 106,090	{ 1,115,065 121,855	{ 1,327,401 198,363	{ 1,467,110 144,016
Light bulbs, etc.	{ C. T. I. D.	{ 22,987 15,154,332	{ 239,694 22,564,897	{ 175,779 29,362,593	{ 178,017 32,152,354	{ 142,326 31,189,804	{ 121,855 27,750,018	{ 198,363 26,960,809	{ 144,016 24,786,876
Textile threads	{ C. T. I. D.	{ 556,801 9,503	{ 1,254,504 —	{ 1,011,791 —	{ 907,387 —	{ 913,512 —	{ 1,634,590 —	{ 1,408,399 —	{ 1,345,091 —
Mercury	{ C. T. I. D.	{ — —	{ — —	{ — —	{ — —	{ — —	{ — —	{ — —	{ — —
Cement	{ C. T. I. D.	{ — —	{ — —	{ — —	{ — —	{ — —	{ — —	{ — —	{ — —
Total revenue	{ C. T. I. D.	{ 81,214,372 17,925,215	{ 127,192,408 14,153,162	{ 166,323,485 12,530,064	{ 209,854,820 10,289,449	{ 235,173,553 10,689,182	{ 256,021,834 11,003,513	{ 354,765,526 15,864,629	{ 404,842,212 18,402,880

(a) Products liable to consumption tax in Italy attract the same fiscal levy whether imported or produced internally. If imported, duty is generally collected by the Customs Authorities at the moment of entry and registered under the title of a "consumption tax". (b) On imported oils. (c) On oil

Spirits and alcoholic beverages. The tax on spirits and alcoholic beverages dates from 1870 (Law of August 11, 1870). Spirits, according to the raw material from which they are manufactured, are classified into two categories, in order to permit a more favourable fiscal policy in relation to certain costly raw materials (wine, etc.) in which national economy has a particular interest. They are also subject to a duty which is applied in a different manner and according to the cost of the raw material from which the product is obtained. Consumption tax is not levied on denaturized spirits. Current legislation calls for a tax on spirits which will eventually be used in the manufacture of luxury products, authorizing a minimum duty or total exemption for certain spirits which will be employed in special manufacturing processes. The tax itself has undergone many modifications in the course of time, mainly due to variations in consumption and changes in the tax quota to be paid. At the present time, ethyl alcohol, methyl alcohol, propyl alcohol and isopropyl alcohol are subject to consumption tax which is applied to every anhydrous hectolitre at a Centigrade temperature of 15.56.

There are more than 1,200 *distilleries* in Italy at the present time, most of them producing ethyl alcohol. The past few years have witnessed a sharp rise in the demand for this product and production is approximately three times the pre-war figure. During the financial year 1955-56, ethyl alcohol yielded the exchequer 15,774 million lire in tax, while other forms accounted for 523 million.

Beer. Duty on this product dates from 1864 (Law of July 3, 1864) and the current levy is authorized by the Law of July 8, 1924 and successive modifications. Differing from other consumer taxes, which are applied at the moment the product is ready for the market, this duty is applied when the malt is being worked, but prior to fermentation. Beer imported from other countries is subject to a tax which is equivalent to consumption tax.

Increases in the consumption and manufacture of beer over the past few years have resulted in a much higher revenue for the exchequer. The figure of 7,175 million lire is registered for the financial year 1955-56. Duty is levied on every hectolitre of must and every degree registered on a saccharimetre at a temperature of 17.5 Centigrade.

Total production of beer in the 32 Italian breweries totalled 156,597,381 litres in 1956, equivalent to 17,960,103 hectolitres/degrees.

Coffee substitutes. A levy on coffee substitutes was introduced under Law No. 1950 of July 3, 1874, for the purpose of protecting the important revenue obtained from customs' dues on coffee. Current legislation is contained in the Law of July 8, 1924, which has undergone

subsequent modifications. Consumption tax and a special import tax are applied to chicory and any other substance which, on consumption, may serve as a substitute for coffee. Although they may be destined for other purposes that this, they are nevertheless subject to tax at the moment they are ready for consumption. Production of coffee substitutes in 1956 totalled 18,075,050 kilogrammes, exchequer revenue being 721 million lire.

Sugar, glucose, maltose and invert sugar. Duty on sugar dates back to 1877 and, for a long time, *has registered the highest consumption tax paid.* Current fiscal laws on sugar contemplate two classes of products with different tax levies, classified according to the yield of the refined product. There are 75 sugar refineries in Italy.

Consumption tax on glucose, maltose and invert sugar was brought in during 1886, 1913 and 1921 respectively. During the 1955-1956 financial year, consumption tax on sugar and like products yielded the exchequer 70,175,962,000 lire. Glucose, invert sugar, etc. produced 861,942,000 lire. Duty on sugar, glucose and maltose is applied to each quintal of finished product.

Mineral oils. A tax levy on mineral oils was introduced in 1891 under Law No. 391 of July 14. This law stated that all products obtained from imported mineral oils would be liable to the same tax as imported finished articles. Later, under a decree (No. 532 of October 10, 1894), an internal duty was created on products obtained from the refining or processing of imported crude oils. Finally, under another decree of September 15, 1915, No. 1371, a further tax was introduced, this time on sales of foreign and national products.

The growing demand for petrol led to this product becoming the object of a higher tax (1921) while the development of the oil industry later brought about the need for further classification of by-products and their respective characteristics (Decree No. 147, January 30, 1939). Under decree No. 334 of February 28, 1939, sales tax was replaced by the current consumption tax.

Mineral oils liable to consumption tax are as follows: natural, crude oils, petrol, turpentine, kerosene, gas oil, lubricants, deposits from refining, vaseline, artificial vaseline, solid paraffin, ozocerite and ceresine.

Duty is also applied to liquid gases, as under Decree No. 1071 of November 14, 1954, which states that these are liable to a levy when used for purposes of combustion.

The constant expansion in the use of petroleum by-products, and particularly petrol, has permitted a constant increase in exchequer revenue, so much so that it has now taken *first place in the list of products on which consumption tax is levied.*

During the financial year 1955-56, income from this group totalled 60 % of the total revenue received from consumption tax. During the year in question, mineral oils produced a tax revenue of 251,692 million lire of which 139,033 million from the levy on petrol.

Seed oil. Tax on this product was introduced in 1881. At first, such duty was applied to cotton seed oil, since this was the most important substitute for olive oil at the time. Later, the tax was extended to all seed oils produced in Italy or imported. The relative law has been subject to various modifications over the years and, at the present moment, legislation approved under the Presidential Decree of December 23, 1954, No. 1217 is in force.

The tax, established at 6,000 lire for each quintal, is applied according to the yield. Seeds which are imported for crushing in Italy are taxed at the port. During the financial year 1955-56, consumption tax on seed oil produced a revenue of 3,168 million lire.

Oil and liquid animal fats. For the purpose of stopping illegal mixing of animal fats with olive oil, the authorities approved a decree dated November 20, 1953, No. 843, imposing consumption tax and a corresponding extra import tax on oils and animal fats having a solidifying point equal or inferior to 30 degrees Centigrade.

Oils and liquid vegetable fats. For the same purpose and in order to avoid mixing of different quality oils, the Law of November 26, 1954, No. 1080, introduced consumption tax on vegetable oils with a solidifying point not over 12 degrees Centigrade.

Acid fats. Again for the purpose of protecting production and trade in olive oil and preventing fraudulent sales, the Decree of October 31, 1956, No. 1194, calls for the application of consumption tax on acid fats, of animal or vegetable origin, with a solidifying point of not over 48 degrees Centigrade.

Gas and electrical energy. Gas and electrical energy are liable to consumption tax, commensurate to the actual consumption of the user, when used for heating, lighting, power and other uses. Tax on these commodities was first introduced in 1895 (Law No. 486 of August 8).

In 1956, consumption of electrical energy amounted to a total of 36,297,420,467 Kw/hrs, of which 22,654,382,357 Kw/hrs were subject to tax for a total revenue of 17,771 million lire. During the same period, consumption of gas and methane reached 9,747,620,247 cubic metres, of which 3,547,879,334 cubic metres were subjected to tax for a revenue of 3,684 million lire.

Electric bulbs. The relative tax was brought into force under Decree No. 848 of July 3, 1921, substituting a law on trade monopolies in electric light bulbs. Under the later decree of June 16, 1938, No. 954, the tax was assessed in relation to the wattage absorbed by each bulb or tube.

Natural and artificial textile fibres. Consumption tax and the corresponding extra import duty were authorised under the C.P.S. Decree of January 3, 1947, No. 1, which substituted regulations covering dues on artificial textile fibres introduced in 1946.

At the present time, tax is further imposed under Law No. 27 of February 18, 1949, Law No. 940 of December 24, 1949, Law No. 205 of March 22, 1951, and Law No. 916 of May 15, 1953. It has suffered various oscillations, but during 1955-56 resulted in 24,786 million lire in revenue, becoming one of the main sources of income from consumer tax.

Mercury. Tax on mercury, introduced in 1940 in the form of a special law issued on behalf of the exchequer and later abolished, was brought back into force under decree No. 1068 of November 24, 1954, later converted to law No. 1166 of December 10, 1954.

Cement and cement products. Tax on these products dates from the decree of November 24, 1954, No. 1069, later law No. 1159 of December 10, 1954. Consumption tax on such products was abolished with decree No. 1284 of November 21, 1956.

Levying of consumption tax is in the hands of 33 specialized offices which control those industries with products liable to this duty. These offices are particularly concerned with the application of all laws issued which, for normal administrative purposes, are classified into three categories. These are:

preventive measures, concerning an initial control of factories for the purpose of establishing the conditions necessary to fiscal control, control of the premises in which the products which have already been released from tax are processed and sold, and control of the use of those products;

administrative measures, concerning the assessment of the quality and quantity of the product liable to a tax levy and payment of the tax imposed;

repressive measures, concerning investigation of offences against existing legislation on consumption tax.

The offices concerned are responsible for the administrative control of approximately 60,000 factories and plants of various kinds operating within Italy.

ROAD ACCIDENTS

THE SITUATION IN 1957

The first statistics relative to road accidents were made available in Italy towards the end of 1934 at a period when a sharp rise in the use of the roads led to a considerable increase in the number of accidents. As from January of that year, R.A.C.I. (Royal Automobile Club of Italy) came to an agreement with the State Statistics Department and began a regular series of statistical surveys. Prior

Table I - ROAD ACCIDENTS AND PERSONS KILLED OR INJURED
PER REGION (1956 AND 1957)

R E G I O N	1 9 5 6			1 9 5 7		
	Accidents	Persons		Accidents	Persons	
		Killed	Injured		Killed	Injured
Piedmont	12,634	615	9,926	15,478	750	11,759
Valle d'Aosta	393	34	473	499	18	592
Lombardy	33,446	1,194	23,436	36,867	1,226	25,312
Trentino-Alto Adige	2,847	186	2,774	3,168	208	2,748
Veneto	8,317	642	7,924	10,011	689	8,913
Friuli-Venezia Giulia	2,377	197	2,153	2,683	178	2,422
Trieste	2,254	41	1,376	2,778	40	1,678
Liguria	13,104	239	7,925	14,553	233	8,315
Emilia-Romagna	13,534	745	13,486	14,602	752	14,609
Tuscany	14,520	516	14,018	17,335	565	16,744
Umbria	1,794	114	2,105	2,270	113	2,337
Marches	2,940	247	3,463	3,400	259	3,691
Lazio	33,618	540	25,272	34,252	550	24,881
Abruzzi & Molise	1,719	163	1,972	2,154	156	2,471
Campania	9,798	298	7,002	12,317	299	7,177
Apulia	5,053	334	4,459	5,574	330	4,549
Basilicata	179	25	221	296	40	363
Calabria	730	107	838	1,629	85	1,517
Sicily	5,790	351	5,656	6,194	304	6,340
Sardinia	2,527	158	2,121	2,794	141	2,003
ITALY...	167,574	6,746	136,600	188,854	6,936	148,421

to this, no official attempt had been made to draw a complete picture of the situation, although data referring to mortal accidents had been

published since 1919. Nothing was known about the entity of persons injured, nor the number of road accidents or the vehicles involved.

188,854 road accidents were officially registered during 1957 involving 155,357 persons, of whom 6,936 died and 148,421 received injuries of varying seriousness. The previous year showed a total of 167,574 accidents, with 6,746 deaths and 136,600 persons injured: a constant rise in the number of accidents (1).

The tragic record is held by Lombardy and Lazio. On the other hand there are 294 kilometres of road per 100,000 inhabitants in the former and 214 kilometres per 100,000 inhabitants in the latter; 921,747 persons paid road licenses in Lombardy in 1957 against 410,924 in Lazio and, therefore, this means that the highest number of accidents are to be found in the latter region (Table II).

Table II — ROADS AND LICENSES IN 1957 — PER REGION

REGION	Length of roads (kms)		Licensed Motor Vehicles		
	Total	Per 100,000 inhabitants	Motor Vehicles	Motor Cycles	Total
Piedmont	21,844	587	213,215	351,803	565,018
Valle d'Aosta	619	625	4,825	8,263	13,088
Lombardy	20,423	294	339,328	582,419	921,747
Trentino-Alto Adige	5,060	658	26,564	43,841	70,405
Veneto	19,287	494	120,799	301,061	421,860
Friuli-Venezia Giulia	5,075	543	25,082	72,024	97,106
Trieste	554	179	16,609	17,397	34,006
Liguria	3,537	214	74,049	96,476	170,525
Emilia-Romagna	21,247	585	155,183	467,978	623,161
Tuscany	15,212	466	118,350	356,840	475,190
Umbria	4,753	579	23,129	64,674	87,803
Marches	8,336	605	39,455	118,428	157,883
Lazio	7,865	214	186,219	224,705	410,924
Abruzzi & Molise	7,665	453	28,148	44,774	72,922
Campania	8,070	172	97,003	99,131	196,134
Apulia	7,787	226	59,103	111,105	170,208
Basilicata	2,854	432	6,110	7,932	14,042
Calabria	5,740	267	27,735	33,669	61,404
Sicily	9,712	204	97,452	154,444	251,896
Sardinia	5,378	383	23,768	36,109	59,877
ITALY...	181,018	363	1,682,126	3,193,073	4,875,199

Examining the *periods* in which accidents take place, it will be seen that the summer months produce the peak (particularly the month of August, with 18,079 accidents against 11,317 registered for February). The highest number of accidents appear to occur on the Saturday of each week with a yearly total of 29,784, while the highest number of deaths and injuries are registered on Sundays with 1,514 deaths and 28,004 injuries. On the other hand, Sunday is placed third when calcu-

(1) See also: *Road Accidents in Italy in 1955* — «Italian Affairs», Vol. VI, No. 3, pp. 1745-1751.

lations are made of the total number of accidents (27,546). Finally, enquiry shows that the most dangerous hours of the day appear to be 7 p. m. with 15,225 registered accidents and 1 p. m. with 14,694. The former also appears to be a time when the major number of deaths (609) and injuries (12,385) occur, and also at 1 p. m. (340 deaths).

Table III - ACCIDENTS ACCORDING TO PRESUMED
OR PROVED CAUSES

C A U S E	Vehicles involved				Responsibility of persons		Not due to vehicle or persons	Total
	Motor Cars	Motor Cycle	Pedal Cycles	Other	Persons carried	Pedestrians		
Inobservance of traffic rules ..	47,152	27,420	7,051	2,965	—	2,279	—	86,867
Imprudence	33,922	14,538	2,658	1,858	854	13,389	—	67,219
Physical or psychic condition	1,436	1,583	361	85	—	37	—	3,502
Defects in vehicle	1,711	909	410	224	—	—	—	3,254
Various	11,151	5,514	1,590	753	50	83	8,866	28,012
Total...	95,372	49,964	12,070	5,890	904	15,788	8,866	188,854

As will be seen, the greatest number of road accidents registered in 1957 arose from *inobservance of traffic regulations* (Table III). In particular, 23,858 accidents involving motor vehicles and 10,303 involving motor cycles and scooters arose from failure to slow down in time. 16,752 and 9,290 accidents, respectively, were the result of failing to give correct precedence at crossings, while 8,235 (motor vehicles) and 2,534 (motor cycles and scooters) occurred as a result of overtaking without first assuring that the road was open. Another 6,106 accidents involving motor vehicles and 6,548 involving motor cycles and scooters were due to speeding and 6,975 and 4,613, respectively, for driving on the wrong side of the road.

Accidents involving pedal cyclists were, for the most part, due to failure to give correct road signals (2,264) while 11,434 accidents involving pedestrians resulted from negligence in crossing streets and roads.

It should also be observed that motor vehicles are responsible for almost twice as many accidents as motor cycles, although licenses have been issued for 3.2 million motor cycles and 1.7 million motor vehicles. Pedestrians represent the most prudent category of road users, accounting for 15,788 accidents among persons using the streets and roads.

Information issued by the State Statistical Department also shows that the major number of accidents on state, provincial and communal highways occur on the open road (114,393 against 50,206 at cross-roads, 24,148 on corners and 107 at level crossings). The most dangerous of these appear to be the communal roads with 146,178 accidents, followed, at some distance, by state and provincial highways.

ITALIAN RADIO BROADCASTS IN ENGLISH

<i>Rome time</i>	<i>Day</i>	<i>Programme</i>	<i>Wave Lengths (*)</i>
PROGRAMME FOR NORTH AMERICA (EAST COAST)			
01.30-01.50	Daily	News Bulletin, Talk and Records	19.48-25.20
PROGRAMME FOR NORTH AMERICA (WEST COAST)			
04.05-04.25	Daily	News Bulletin, Talk and Records	25.20-31.33
PROGRAMME FOR AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND			
10.00-10.15	Daily	News Bulletin	
	Sunday	Talk and Neapolitan Songs	
10.15-10.40	Monday	« We Want Music »	13.91
	Tuesday	Opera Music	16.85
	Wednesday	Melodies and Songs	19.58
	Thursday	Varied programme	
	Friday	Light Music and Songs	
	Saturday	Request programme and Mail Bag	
PROGRAMME FOR NORTH-WEST AFRICA AND NEAR EAST			
10.20-10.40	Daily	News Bulletin and Music	19.84 25.20
PROGRAMME FOR THE MIDDLE AND FAR EAST			
11.45-12.05	Daily	News Bulletin and Music	13.91 16.88 19.48
PROGRAMME FOR SOUTH AFRICA			
16.35-16.55	Daily	News Bulletin and Music	13.91 16.88
PROGRAMME FOR G. BRITAIN AND IRELAND			
19.20-19.35	Daily	News Bulletin	
	Sunday	Light Music	
19.35-19.40	Monday	Request programme and Mail Bag	
	Tuesday	Opera Music	31.33
	Wednesday	Music	49.92
	Thursday	Talk	
	Friday	Neapolitan Songs	
	Saturday	Talk	
18.55-19.10	Thursday	Problems of NATO	30.90
18.55-19.10	Monday	Problems of European Unity	41.24 50.34
NOCTURNE FROM ITALY			
23.35-06.40	Daily	Varied Musical Programme; News at 1; 2; 3; 4; 5; 6.	355

Please note: Possible changes in times and wavelengths will be notified during our transmissions.

(*)	13.91 metres = 21.56 Mc/s	25.40 metres = 11.81 Mc/s
	16.85 " = 17.80 "	30.90 " = 9.71 "
	16.88 " = 17.77 "	31.33 " = 9.57 "
	16.91 " = 17.74 "	41.24 " = 7.27 "
	19.48 " = 15.40 "	49.50 " = 6.06 "
	19.58 " = 15.32 "	49.92 " = 6.01 "
	19.84 " = 15.12 "	50.34 " = 5.96 "
	25.20 " = 11.90 "	355 " = 845 Kc/s

The three National Programmes of the RAI are broadcast on short and medium waves.
Below is a list of the hours of transmission and the wavelengths.

	<i>Day</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Wavelength</i>
1st Programme	Holidays	6.40-11; 12-24.10	approx. 49.50 metres = 6.06 Mc/sec.
	Weekdays	6.40-9; 11-14.30; 16.20-24.10	" 31.53 " = 9.515 "
2nd Programme	Holidays	8.30-12; 18-23.30	" 41.81 " = 7.175 "
	Weekdays	9-11; 13-23.30	
3rd Programme	Holidays	16-18.30; 19-24 approx.	" 75.09 " = 3.995 "
	Weekdays	19-24 approx.	

CRIME IN ITALY AND ABROAD

A STATISTICAL COMPARISON

Used on a world scale statistical comparison often brings to light many interesting factors, and this is particularly true in the case of crime. The following enquiry is based on figures relating to the number of persons found guilty of offences or crimes, over a period of one year, in European and extra-European states. These figures are strictly in relation to the number and age of persons capable of committing such crimes or offences, premeditated or otherwise, but do not include minors of fifteen years and under who are considered in a separate report. Some of the results which come to light may not be altogether surprising, but they do, to say the least, produce some unexpected information (1).

Such an investigation may be opened with an examination of the more serious offences and crimes which are most common. This is a category which naturally excludes offences against the State, religion or public security, for these cannot be considered under the same heading in as much as they are of a seditious character. Nor can it include such infractions as offences against financial and fiscal laws, electoral laws, drunkenness, disturbance of the peace, persistent vagrancy, driving under the influence of alcohol, drugs, etc. which, although reaching serious proportions in such countries as Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, are still not sufficient to provide a correct picture of criminal offences.

A glance at the list of countries examined and the number of persons found guilty of serious criminal offences, shows that Italy is at seventh place,¹ following the West German Republic, the United States. France and several nations which are generally considered to have a much lower criminal population (Switzerland, Sweden, the United

(1) See also: *Judicial Activity in 1954 and 1955* - «Italian Affairs» Vol. VI, No. 2, pp. 1639-1640.

Kingdom). A chart of minor criminal offences shows Italy to be in the penultimate position, but this is of much less importance to the purposes of this investigation.

Table 1 - OFFENDERS PUNISHED ACCORDING TO OFFENCE
(per 100,000 inhabitants over 15 yrs)

S T A T E	O f f e n c e				Minor Offences	
	Assault	Sex	Larceny	Total	Excl. drunkenness	Incl. drunkenness
W. Germany (a)	284.9	58.2	380.3	723.4	—	616.9
U.S.A. (b)	186.6	161.3	379.6	717.5	699.3	3,604.6
France (c)	127.4	72.6	264.7	464.7	—	221.2
Switzerland (d)	77.3	74.3	267.7	419.3	—	127.3
Sweden (e)	61.3	11.9	218.4	291.6	151.3	3,814.8
United Kingdom (f)	12.5	13.7	239.1	265.3	338.9	587.4
Italy (g)	60.2	18.6	115.4	194.2	—	57.0
Norway (h)	22.4	11.5	101.0	134.9	—	1,809.5
Spain (i)	12.7	5.9	89.7	108.3	—	34.7

(a) 1954 - Excluding West Berlin. Information taken from *Statistisches Jahrbuch für die Bundesrepublik Deutschland* 1953-57.

(b) 1955 - Partial data from *Uniform Crime Reports* of the F.B.I. for 1952-56, referring to persons found guilty of offences in 201 cities with 24,662,474 inhabitants.

(c) 1951 - Data from *Compte général de l'Administration de la Justice Civile et Commerciale et de la Justice Criminelle*, 1948-51.

(d) 1954 - Data from the *Statistisches Jahrbuch der Schweiz* 1954-55.

(e) 1954 - Data from the *Statistisk Årsbok för Sverige* 1955 and the *Brottsligheten* 1954.

(f) 1955 - Including England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland; excluding members of the Armed Forces of the Commonwealth and other nations. Data collected from *Criminal Statistics* 1955.

(g) 1955 - Data from *Istituto Italiano di Statistica* (Italian Institute of Statistics - ISTAT) Year Book, 1957.

(h) 1954 - Data from *Statistisk Årbok for Norge*, 1954-56.

(i) 1954 - Data from *Anuario Estadístico de España* 1957.

Apart from the question of serious criminal offences, Italy occupies a low place on the list of those countries which, although considered traditionally peaceful, have a high ratio of persons found guilty of indictable offences against the individual. Sex offences (rape, prostitution, etc.) are much less pronounced in this country than in Germany, the United States, France and Switzerland and it should be borne in mind that the difference becomes even more marked when it is realized that the Italian Penal Code covers certain offences which have little or nothing to do with such a category. The crime of *larceny* shows a much lower index in Italy than in such nations as Western Germany, the United Kingdom, Sweden and Switzerland, which are generally recognized as having higher principles of honesty.

Table 2 shows that sex crimes are much more common to the United States, Switzerland and France, assault and battery more prevalent in Germany, Italy, France and the United States, and larceny very marked in the United Kingdom, Spain and the Scandinavian countries. On the other hand, this table is not necessarily indicative of any particular trend in any of the countries mentioned.

For example, larceny in the United Kingdom may be represented by high indices because of the very severe laws against violence and sex crimes which limit the latter offences.

Table 2 — DISTRIBUTION OF OFFENCES AMONG 100 PERSONS TRIED AND SUBSEQUENTLY SENTENCED.

S T A T E	C r i m e s		
	Assault	Sex, Prostitution	Larceny
Italy	31.0	9.5	59.5
France	27.4	15.6	57.0
Spain	11.7	5.5	82.8
Switzerland	18.4	17.7	63.9
United Kingdom	4.7	5.2	90.1
Western Germany	39.3	8.0	52.7
Sweden	21.0	4.1	74.9
Norway	16.6	8.5	74.9
United States	26.0	22.4	51.6

Naturally, comparison of world statistics always produces elements of uncertainty and doubt because of the approximate sources from which the material is drawn. The diverse statistical systems used by individual countries are sufficient to curtail any attempts at definite conclusions. Furthermore, the problem is made even more complicated by differences in the penal legislation in force and the severity with which certain types of criminal offences are punished. However, the existence of common principles and the acceptance of a general standard of ethics on the part of the western and Christian world, mean that the results obtained can assume a certain importance.

Table 3 — PERCENTAGE OF KNOWN OFFENDERS. ITALY, 1955.
(Information taken from ISTAT Year Book)

O F F E N C E	Known Offenders	Unknown Offenders
Assault, battery, etc.....	91.6	8.4
Sex offences, rape, etc.....	98.2	1.8
Larceny	38.6	61.4
Other offences	94.5	5.5
<i>Total offences ...</i>	<i>67.4</i>	<i>32.6</i>

Two objections against any formulation of criminal tendencies in any one nation may be offered. The first is that, in compiling indices on crime, calculation must be made of the *number of offences committed* and not of the persons found guilty. The second, which is probably

more important, is that no correct estimation of criminal tendencies in an individual state can be reached by merely basing computation on the number of persons found guilty, since the number of offences not punished would profoundly alter any statistical analysis. Such an observation must be accepted, although it is true to say that, as far as Italy is concerned, any corrections to indices illustrating the percentage of offences committed, would not result in any substantial modifications to the tables included in this report.

Table 3 shows that, in Italy, a high percentage of persons guilty of larceny escape punishment. Such a group, however, generally embraces the less serious offences of pick-pocketing, wilful damage, car-theft, etc. In relation to the other groups mentioned, most of the offenders are caught and punished and this is a situation which other states will find difficult to surpass.

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Tourist Calendar

MAY 1959

ART AND CULTURE

Rome: Exposition of Painting and Sculpture in Via Margutta.

CONGRESSES

Milan: International Congress on Pathology in Infectious Diseases.

Rome: 2nd International Congress on Deepsea Fishing.

Stresa (Novara province): International Union for Electronic Studies.

EXHIBITIONS AND FAIRS

Bologna: 23rd Samples Fair. This year's edition includes world contributions to the application of electricity, special expositions of foodstuffs, domestic science, machinery and products pertaining to the clothing trade. 4th National Festival of the Italian cuisine.

Padua: 37th International Samples Fair.

Palermo: 15th International Mediterranean Samples Fair (up to June 10). §

Rome: 7th National Samples Fair.

Cassari: 3rd Sardinian Artisan Fair.

RELIGIOUS EVENTS

Bari: Festival of San Nicola. Includes a solemn procession commemorating the translation of the Saint's body. It is part of the Bari May festivities.

Cagliari: 303rd Festival of Sant'Efisio. (May 1-4). One of the most pic-

turesque processions in the world with the richest of costumes. At 11 a. m. on May 1st., the image of the Saint is carried to Nora (Pula Commune), the locality in which Sant'Efisio was martyred. On May 4, the image is returned to Cagliari accompanied by a cavalry escort.

Campobasso: Festival of the Mysteries (May 28). A procession of living groups depicting scenes from the Old and New Testaments. In vogue since 1749.

Cocullo (Aquila province): Festival of the Snakes (May 7). The statue of San Domenico, covered in live snakes, is carried through the streets of Cocullo.

Naples: Traditional festivities in honour of St. Gennaro, Patron of the city (May 2). A religious festival which marks the miraculous liquifaction of the Saint's blood. Of great folklore value because of local colouring.

Orvieto (Terni province): Festival of the Dove. Commemorating the descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles. Festival of Corpus Domini (May 28). Includes a procession which recalls the institution of the feast by Pope Urban IV in 1260.

FOLKLORE

Camogli (Genoa): Fish festival (May 10). Fish, fried in a gigantic pan, is distributed to spectators.

Cervia (Ravenna): «The Wedding of the Sea». The Bishop of Cervia blesses the sea and throws a symbolic wedding ring into the waters.

Florence: Football Match in costume at the Boboli Gardens (May 3). Marks the game played on February 17th.

1530 in defiance of the French troops of Charles Vth then besieging the city. The game is preceded by a costume procession.

Florence: «Festival of the Grasshopper» (May 7). A popular festival during which grasshoppers in tiny cages are sold to the public.

JUNE 1959

ART AND CULTURE

Faenza (Ravenna): 17th National Ceramics Contest and International Ceramics Exhibition (until July).

EXHIBITIONS AND FAIRS

Milan: International Horse Show at the Arena.

Padua: 37th International Samples Fair until 14th (from 30th May).

Palermo: 14th International Samples Fair of the Mediterranean, until 10th.

Rome: 6th International Exhibition of Electronics, Nuclear Energy, Radio, Television and Films (this is the only exhibition of its kind in Italy. It is held in the buildings of the E.U.R. exhibition zone).

– 7th National Samples Fair.

Turin: 8th International Clothing Salon.

FOLKLORE

Florence: Football match in Costume in Piazza della Signoria (historical evocation of the match played on February 17th 1530 as a mark of defiance against the troops of Charles V who were besieging the city. The match is preceded by a historical procession in costume). 24th & 28th (at night).

Genoa: Palio of the Ancient Maritime Republics (a recently introduced rowing event between crews representing the four historical Maritime Republics: Amalfi, Genoa, Pisa and Venice. It is preceded by parades in costume).

Nola (Naples): Feast of the «Gigli» (lilies). Eight objects 82-98 ft. (25-30 metres) high and each weighing about 50 cwt., covered with paintings and niches containing statues of Saints, are carried through the streets of Nola in an evocative procession) (21st).

Pavia: Palio of the Goose and River Festival on the Ticino (a tournament of skill which originated in the Middle Ages and now resumed in its original form).

Pisa: The Bridge Game (an evocation of the Game that took place in the 13th century with about 800 personages in costume) (7th).

– Illuminations of San Ranieri (illumination of the river banks).

– Regatta of San Ranieri (a historical regatta in costume between the representatives of the four city quarters).

Salsomaggiore Terme (Parma): 10th Parade and Festival of Flowers.

Terni: Festival of the Waters (illuminations and firework at the Marmore Waterfalls and Lake Piediluco).

Torre dei Greco (Naples): Festival of the «Four Altars» (a popular and religious festival in memory of the liberation of the city from medieval vassalage).

Trieste: 11th International Samples Fair of Trieste (it includes the interesting International Coffee Exhibition and International Wood Exhibition).

Ventimiglia (Imperia): 21st Battle of Flowers (flowers are the missiles in this original dispute).

SPORT

Cerda (Palermo): 43rd Targa Florio international Motor Race.

Cernobbio (Como): 18th International Horse Show in the Park of Villa Erba-Visconti di Modrone.

Monza (Milan): 500-mile Race at Monza (a motor race recently introduced to bring racing motorists of America and Europe together).

Palermo: 11th International Air Race round Sicily.

Pavia: 19th International Pavia-Venice Motor-boat race (this is the world's longest speed-boat Race).

Rome: Italian Trotting Derby (the most important and most fashionable Italian racing event).

Venice: 19th International Pavia-Venice speed-boat Race.

RELIGIOUS EVENTS

Assisi (Perugia): Feast of the Vow (a historical and religious event in mem-

ory of a miracle performed by Santa Chiara in 1241) (29th).

Comacina Island (Como): Feast of San Giovanni (St. John) with illuminations and a Procession of Boats.

Padua: Feast of St. Antonio - Fair of the Saint (a popular festival that includes a procession and religious festivities in Pra' della Valle) (14th).

THEATRE AND MUSICAL EVENTS

Benevento: Performances of classical plays at the Roman Theatre.

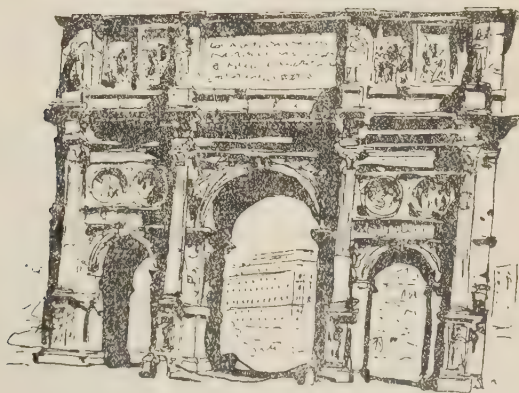
Florence: 22nd Florentine May Music Festival (from May).

Milan: Opera Season at the Piccola Scala Theatre (from 26-12-58).

Ravello (Salerno): Wagnerian Concerts at Villa Rufolo.

Rome: Opera Season at the Caracalla Baths.

- Concert Season at the Basilica of Maxentius.



Rome - Arch of Titus



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Political Calendar

JANUARY 1959

3. - The President of the Republic, Giovanni Gronchi, returns to Rome from Naples where he spent New Year.

5. - During today's Cabinet meeting, the Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Amintore Fanfani, illustrates the reasons and objectives of his visit to Egypt. Ministers also approve the following items on the agenda:

- appropriations amounting to 40 milliard lire for the improvement of the postal services;

- further examination of the norms contained in the Statute for « Alto Adige and Trentino Regione »;

- drafting of measures which will ensure employment for farm labourers.

6. - The Italian Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Amintore Fanfani, arrives in Cairo. He is met at the airport by Marshall Amer, who reads a message of welcome from President Nasser, numerous Egyptian ministers, Italian and Egyptian representatives of the diplomatic corps and ambassadors of friendly states.

A few hours later, the Italian Prime Minister opens official talks with President Nasser at Kubbeh Palace.

8. - Following talks between Amintore Fanfani and President Nasser in Cairo, a joint communiqué is issued. This observes that the Italian Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Foreign Minister of the United Arab Republic, Mahmud Fauzi, are in favour of

periodical talks between Rome and Cairo, which will help solve world problems of interest to both countries. The communiqué also lists the agreements established between Italy and the United Arab Republic for the promotion of closer economic and cultural relations. Official circles of both states are aware of the importance of their respective cultures and favour the founding of special institutes in Rome and Cairo. Preliminary approval for the concession of suitable sites for an Italian Cultural Centre in Cairo and a United Arab Republic Academy in Rome has already been given and Italian circles are ready to offer thirty scholarships to Egyptian students following technical studies in Italy. An economic agreement covers the purchase of Egyptian cotton and Italian wheat. There is also a clause which foresees more intensive trade exchange between the two states, Italian participation in the economic development of the United Arab Republic and talks between Italian and Egyptian experts on matters of common interest. Concluding, the communiqué says that the Italian Prime Minister has once again, extended an official invitation to President Nasser to visit Italy, and that such a visit may take place this year.

9. - Before leaving Egypt, the Italian Prime Minister and Italian representatives visit the El Alamein Military Cemetery. After leaving Egypt, the Italian Prime Minister pays an official visit to Greece. He is met at the airport by the

Greek Prime Minister, Costantin Karamanlis, the Greek Foreign Minister, Evaghielos Averoff, other members of the Greek Government and Italian and foreign diplomatic representatives.

10. - Following initial talks held the previous evening at the Greek Parliament, Amintore Fanfani, the Greek Prime Minister and the Greek Foreign Minister meet today for further discussions. Final conclusions include economic and cultural agreements and a common policy in the Middle East.

11. - The Italian Prime Minister arrives in Rome after visits to Cairo and Athens.

12. - The Italian Prime Minister is invited to the Quirinal, where he informs the President of the Republic of his talks in Cairo and Athens.

13. - A delegation from Euratom arrives in Rome on an official visit to Italy. Welcomed by the Minister for Industry and Trade, Senator Bo, the delegation visits Palazzo Chigi for a meeting with Prime Minister Fanfani. Members later have an audience with the President of the Republic, Giovanni Gronchi.

14. - The Italian Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Amintore Fanfani, arrives in Paris to take part in the meeting of the Ministers of the European Common Market. During the talks, Fanfani suggests the continuation of bilateral negotiations in order to seek a way of extending the advantages, already existing for MEC states, to the other eleven members of the O.E.E.C. This suggestion leads to approval of the principle of bilateral conversations as a means of solving pending questions.

Before attending today's talks, Prime Minister Fanfani pays a courtesy visit to General De Gaulle.

16. - A lengthy Cabinet meeting at the Viminal. Drawn out talks are mainly the result of a considerable number of items to be discussed, including a proposed Bill on assignment of houses built with State contributions, low priced housing

for Italian nationals in the Bolzano area, measures for reducing unemployment in agriculture. Ministers also approve the report on the Prime Minister's official visits abroad.

The President of the Republic, Giovanni Gronchi, receives Mr. Mihailo Javorski, Ambassador Extraordinary of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, who presents his credentials.

20. - The Cabinet meets at the Viminal. Ministers approve a Bill covering reorganization of the Finance Guards (*Corpo delle Guardie di Finanza*), a loan of 5 milliard lire to be used as a «small loan and mortgage fund» for State employees and a Bill on special allowances for magistrates.

The Italian Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs receives a visit from the United States Ambassador in Rome, Mr. Zellerbach, who reports on the results of Mikoyan's talks with American leaders.

23. - During today's meeting, the Cabinet approves budget estimates for 1959-60 and general administrative questions. At the end of the meeting, the Prime Minister illustrates the importance of the budget talks, adding that the deficit for 1959-60 will be reduced by approximately 5 milliard lire.

The Cabinet also expresses its interest in the problem of «probable debits» arising from various matters, including grain stockpiles. Ministers also agree on raising the Consulate at Seoul to the status of Embassy and approve a Bill, drafted by the Minister for Public Health, Senator Monaldi, covering treatment and assistance to polio sufferers.

26. - A Cabinet meeting, during which the Prime Minister, following the resignation of the Minister Labour, Vigorelli, points out the need for the whole Government to resign.

After a brief discussion, Amintore Fanfani hands the Government's resignation to the President of the Republic. President Gronchi requests Prime Minister Fanfani to remain in office for the purpose of carrying through questions of

normal administration. After his visit to the Quirinal, Prime Minister Fanfani meets the Speakers of the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies to inform them of the Government's resignation.

27. — President Giovanni Gronchi begins consultations relative to the formation of a new Government.

The Minister for Agriculture, Ferrari Aggradi, receives a visit from Mr. Mansholt, Chairman of the Executive Com-

mittee of the E.C.M., who is responsible for the agricultural policy of the member states. Today's talks centre round agriculture in other states and Italy's agricultural development programmes.

31. — Senator De Nicola and Senator Luigi Einaudi visit President Gronchi at the Quirinal, thus concluding the cycle of political discussions prior to the formation of a new Government.

FEBRUARY, 1959

1. — After official conversations, President Gronchi receives the Speakers of the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies, Merzagora and Leone.

4. — During the course of conversations at the Quirinal, the President of the Republic asks Amintore Fanfani to withdraw his resignation and form a new Government. Fanfani requests twenty-four hours to decide, and then visits the Speakers of the Senate and Chamber of Deputies to inform them of the new developments.

5. — After political soundings, Amintore Fanfani again visits the President of the Republic and confirms his resignation.

President Gronchi calls upon Antonio Segni to form a new Government.

12. — During the course of a ceremony at the Embassy of the Republic of Argentina, Professor Antonio Segni receives the *Gran Croce del Liberatore Generale San Martino* handed to him by the Ambassador, General Dalmiro Videla Balaguer, in the name of President Frondizi.

15. — The President of the Republic receives Professor Antonio Segni at the Quirinal. The latter illustrates his proposals for the formation of a new Government, which are based on the points he outlined when accepting office. President Gronchi signs the decrees appointing the following new ministers:

Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior, Antonio Segni;

Minister, without Portfolio, for Tourism and Sport, Senator Umberto Tupini;

Minister for the Southern Italy Development Fund, Giulio Pastore;

Minister for Beaurocratic Reform, Senator Giorgio Bo;

Minister for Parliamentary Liaison, Giuseppe Bettiol;

Minister for Foreign Affairs, Giuseppe Pella;

Minister of Justice, Guido Gonella;

Minister of the Budget and «ad interim» Treasury, Fernando Tambroni;

Minister of Finance, Paolo Emilio Taviani;

Minister of Defence, Giulio Andreotti;

Minister of Public Instruction, Giuseppe Medici;

Minister of Public Works, Giuseppe Togni;

Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Mariano Rumor;

Minister of Transport, Armando Angelini;

Minister for Post and Telecommunications, Giuseppe Spataro;

Minister for Industry and Trade, Emilio Colombo;

Minister of Labour and Social Security, Benigno Zaccagnino;

Minister of Foreign Trade, Dino Del Bo;

Minister for the Mercantile Marine, Angelo R. Jervolino;

Minister of State Participations, M. Ferrari Aggradi;

Minister of Public Health, Senator Camillo Giardina.

16. — The Prime Minister, Antonio Segni, and members of the new Government are sworn in before the President of the Republic.

18. — The Foreign Minister, Giuseppe Pella, receives visits from the British Ambassador, Sir Ashley Clark, the Yugoslav Ambassador, Mihailo Javorski and the Japanese Ambassador, Ichito Ohta, all of whom are leaving Rome.

23. — The Cabinet meets and approves the programme which the Prime Minister will outline to the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate within the next few days.

24. — The Prime Minister, Antonio Segni, informs the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate of the following new Government programme:

a policy of economic progress with an immediate aim of overcoming the current recession and pursuing the long-term objective of reducing unemployment; determined defence of institutional customs;

complete loyalty to Atlantic and European principles accepted by Italy in the past and which justify Italy's relations with the Mediterranean states.

The Prime Minister also asserts that Italy will continue its policy of friendship and collaboration with Somaliland, which will continue to be assisted after termination of the United Nations trusteeship. Italy will also seek closer trade and cultural relations with the countries of the Mediterranean basin.

Referring to Alto Adige, the Italian Prime Minister informs the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate that the Government will continue its policy of adhering to the principles of the Paris Treaty but, while respecting the responsibilities of the Treaty, will be firm in its defence of the nation's interests.

During today's Cabinet meeting, ministers approve the nomination of Giuseppe Garlato as Undersecretary to the Ministry of State Participations, replacing the deputy Sullo who has resigned.

Garlato was originally nominated Undersecretary to the Ministry of Transport, an office which has now been given to Domenico Colasanto. No nomination is made to replace Zanibelli who has resigned as Undersecretary to the Ministry of Labour.

25. — The President of the Republic, Giovanni Gronchi, receives a visit from the Japanese Ambassador, Ichiro Ohta, who is leaving Rome.

At Palazzo Chigi, the Foreign Minister receives visits from Chan Syndica, Ambassador of Greece, Emilio de Navasquez, Ambassador of Spain and German Arciniegas. The latter hands over his credentials as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Columbia.

The Minister of Transport, Angelini, acts as host to a group of journalists visiting Rome Terminal to inspect the new electric train E.T.R. 303, known as the *Settebello*, and several new types of rolling stock. The *Settebello* 303 is the third train of its type to come into service on the Italian rail network. It is reputed to have an average speed of 120 kms. and will be used on the Rome-Milan route, as from March 15.

26. — The Italian Foreign Minister, Giuseppe Pella, receives visits from the Ambassador of Libya, Mohamud Muntasser, the Ambassador of Norway, Prebenson, the Ambassador of Denmark, Bech, the Ambassador of Portugal, Brazao and the Ambassador of France, Pawlowski. He later meets Mr. Joyatilleke Hulugalle who hands over credentials which promote him to the rank of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Ceylon.

27. — The Italian Chamber of Deputies concludes its debate on the Government programme outlined by the Prime Minister approving it with 333 votes in favour and 248 contrary.

28. — The President of the Republic, Giovanni Gronchi, receives the Ambassador of Chile, Mr. Javier Lira Merino.

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